



De Wilde pinx^t

Levey sc^d

M^{RS} WELLS as ANNE LOVELY.

I greatly fear the flesh, and the weakness thereof.
— hum —

London. Printed for J. Bell, British Library, Strand. Nov. 1791.

A

BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE.

A

COMEDY,

By MRS. CENTLIVRE.

ADAPTED FOR

THEATRICAL REPRESENTATION,

AS PERFORMED AT THE

THEATRES-ROYAL,

DRURY-LANE AND COVENT-GARDEN.

REGULATED FROM THE PROMPT-BOOKS,

By Permission of the Managers.

* The words distinguished by inverted Commas, are taken from the Prompt-books.

LONDON:

Printed for the Proprietors, under the Direction of
JOHN BECKET, British Library, STRAND,
Bookseller to H. M. Royal Highness the Prince of Wales

MDCCCXI.



W. H. & S. M. L. & S. L. O. R. E. Y.

Designed by Peter the Great, and the most magnificent

London: Printed by W. H. & S. M. L. & S. L. O. R. E. Y.

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BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE

CONVICT

Dr. Mrs. C. M. T. W. F.

ALBANY

THE NEW YORK

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TO
HIS GRACE,
P H I L I P,
DUKE AND MARQUIS OF WHARTON, &c.

MY LORD,

IT has ever been the custom of poets, to shelter productions of this nature under the patronage of the brightest men of their time; and 'tis observed, that the muses always met the kindest reception from persons of the greatest merit. The world will do me justice as to the choice of my patron; but will, I fear, blame my rash attempt, in daring to address your Grace, and offer at a work too difficult for our ablest pens, viz. an encomium on your Grace. I have no plea against such reflections, but the disadvantage of education, and the privilege of my sex.

If your Grace discovers a genius so surprising in this dawn of life, what must your riper years produce! Your Grace has already been distinguished in a most peculiar manner, being the first young nobleman that ever was admitted into a house of peers before he reached the age of one and twenty: but your Grace's judgment and eloquence soon convinced that august assembly, that the excellent gifts of na-

ture ought not to be confined to time. *We hope the example that Ireland has set, will shortly be followed by an English house of lords, and your Grace made a member of that body, to which you will be so conspicuous an ornament.*

Your good sense, and real love for your country, taught your Grace to persevere in the principles of your glorious ancestors, by adhering to the defender of our religion and laws; and the penetrating wisdom of your royal master saw you merited your honours ere he conferred them. It is one of the greatest glories of a monarch to distinguish where to bestow his favours; and the world must do ours justice, by owning your Grace's titles most deservedly worn.

It is with the greatest pleasure imaginable, the friends of liberty see you pursuing the steps of your noble father: your courteous affable temper, free from pride and ostentation, makes your name adored in the country, and enables your Grace to carry what point you please. The late Lord Wharton will be still remembered by every lover of his country, which never felt a greater shock than what his death occasioned: their grief had been inconsolable, if Heaven, out of its wonted beneficence to this favourite isle, had not transmitted all his shining qualities to you, and phoenix-like, raised up one patriot out of the ashes of another.

That your Grace has a high esteem for learning, particularly appears by the large progress you made therein: and your love for the muses shews a sweetness of temper, and generous humanity, peculiar to the greatness of your soul; for such virtues reign not in the breast of every man of quality.

Defer no longer then, my lord, to charm the world with the beauty of your numbers, and shew the poet, as you have done the orator; convince our unthinking Britons, by what vile arts France lost her liberty; and teach them to avoid their own misfortunes, as well as to weep over Henry IV. who (if it were possible for him to know) would forgive the bold assassin's hand, for the honour of having his fall celebrated by your Grace's pen.

To be distinguished by persons of your Grace's character is not only the highest ambition, but the greatest reputation to an author; and it is not the least of my vanities, to have it known to the public, I had your Grace's leave to prefix your name to this comedy.

I wish I were capable to clothe the following scenes in such a dress as might be worthy to appear before your Grace, and draw your attention as much as your Grace's admirable qualifications do that of all man-

kind ; but the muses, like most females, are least liberal to their own sex.

All I dare say in favour of this piece, is, that the plot is entirely new, and the incidents wholly owing to my own invention ; not borrowed from our own, or translated from the works of any foreign poet ; so that they have at least the charm of novelty to recommend them. If they are so lucky, in some leisure hour, to give your Grace the least diversion, they will answer the utmost ambition of,

My Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient, most devoted, and

Most humble servant,

SUSANNA CENTLIVRE.

A BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE.

THIS is the play of a lady, whose productions we have before had occasion to notice generally. It seems to be such a kind of work, as any woman fertile in expedient might conceive, and any woman, conversant with language in a slight degree, might write.

It has no scenes of wit that demanded vivacity of intelligence to collect, and a mind skilled and exercised in remote resemblances to combine. Humour it has, but it is of the coarsest kind—not over delicate, nor exceedingly chaste.

One peculiarity strikes us in the comedy of female writers: it is, that their heroines are never to be won without stratagem. They invariably display the romantic cast of the sex, in such redundancy of disguises and surprises, such conjurations of the lover, and such caprices of the mistress—so much inexorable folly in her guardian, or such blindness in her parents, such readiness of lying in the lady, and so much dexterity of contrivance in her maid.

Mrs. APHRA BEHN appears to have begun this loose comedy among us; which some of our present writers seem about to finish—We assure them they are heartily welcome, for all that either present or future readers will care.

PROLOGUE.

*To night we come upon a bold design,
To try to please without one borrow'd line;
Our plot is new and regularly clear,
And not one single tittle from Moliere.
O'er buried poets we with caution tread,
And parish sextons leave to rob the dead.
For you, bright British fair, in hopes to charm ye,
We bring to-night a lover from the army;
You know the soldiers have the strangest arts,
Such a proportion of prevailing parts,
You'd think that they rid post to women's hearts.
I wonder whence they draw their bold pretence;
We do not choose them sure for our defence:
That plea is both impolitic and wrong,
And only suit such dames as want a tongue.
Is it their eloquence and fine address?
The softness of their language?—Nothing less.
Is it their courage, that they bravely dare
To storm the sex at once?—Egad! 'tis there,
They act by us as in the rough campaign,
Unmindful of repulses, charge again:
They mine and countermine, resolv'd to win,
And, if a breach is made,—they will come in.*

*You'll think, by what we have of soldiers said,
Our female wit was in the service bred:
But she is to the hardy toil a stranger,
She loves the cloth indeed, but hates the danger:
Yet to this circle of the brave and gay,
She bid one, for her good intentions say,
She hopes you'll not reduce her to half-pay.
As for our play, 'tis English humour all:
Then will you let our manufacture fall?
Would you the honour of our nation raise,
Keep English credit up, and English plays.*

Dramatis Personae.

DRURY-LANE.

Men.

Colonel FAINWELL, <i>in love with Mrs. Lovely</i>	Mr. Palmer.
Sir PHILIP MODELOVE, <i>an old beau</i>	- - Mr. Baddeley.
PERIWINKLE, <i>a kind of silly virtuoso</i>	- - Mr. Parsons.
TRADELOVE, <i>a Change broker</i>	- - Mr. Faucett.
OBADIAH PRIM, <i>a Quaker hosier</i>	- - Mr. Moody.
FREEMAN, <i>the Colonel's friend, a merchant</i>	Mr. Barrymore.
SIMON PURE, <i>a Quaking preacher</i>	- - Mr. Burton.
Mr. SACKBUT, <i>a vintner</i>	- - Mr. Phillimore.

Women.

Mrs. LOVELY, <i>a fortune of thirty thousand pounds</i>	} Miss Farren.
Mrs. PRIM, <i>wife to Prim the hosier</i>	
BETTY, <i>servant to Mrs. Lovely.</i>	
	- - Mrs. Love.
	- - Miss Tidswell.

COVENT-GARDEN.

Men.

Colonel FAINWELL, <i>in love with Mrs. Lovely</i>	Mr. Ryder.
Sir PHILIP MODELOVE, <i>an old beau</i>	- - Mr. Bernard.
PERIWINKLE, <i>a kind of silly virtuoso</i>	- - Mr. Quick.
TRADELOVE, <i>a Change broker</i>	- - Mr. Thompson.
OBADIAH PRIM, <i>a Quaker hosier</i>	- - Mr. Booth.
FREEMAN, <i>the Colonel's friend, a merchant</i>	Mr. Davies.
SIMON PURE, <i>a Quaking preacher</i>	- - Mr. Blanchard.
Mr. SACKBUT, <i>a vintner</i>	- - Mr. Fearon.

Women.

Mrs. LOVELY, <i>a fortune of thirty thousand pounds</i>	} Mrs. Wells.
Mrs. PRIM, <i>wife to Prim the hosier</i>	
BETTY, <i>servant to Mrs. Lovely</i>	
	- - Mrs. Pitt.
	- - Mrs. Davenett.



A

BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE.

ACT I. SCENE I.

A Tavern. Colonel FAINWELL and FREEMAN over a Bottle.

Freeman.

COME, colonel, his majesty's health.—You are as melancholy as if you were in love! I wish some of the beauties of Bath ha'n't snapt your heart.

Col. Why, faith, Freeman, there is something in't; I have seen a lady at Bath, who has kindled such a flame in me, that all the waters there cann't quench.

Free. Women, like some poisonous animals, carry their antidote about 'em——Is she not to be had, colonel?

Col. That's a difficult question to answer; however, I resolve to try: perhaps you may be able to serve me; you merchants know one another.—The

lady told me herself she was under the charge of four persons.

Free. Odso ! 'tis Mrs. Anne Lovely.

Col. The same—Do you know her ?

Free. Know her ! ay,—Faith, colonel, your condition is more desperate than you imagine : why, she is the talk and pity of the whole town ; and it is the opinion of the learned that she must die a maid.

Col. Say you so ? That's somewhat odd, in this charitable city.—She's a woman, I hope ?

Free. For aught I know,—but it had been as well for her, had nature made her any other part of the creation. The man who keeps this house serv'd her father ; he is a very honest fellow, and may be of use to you ; we'll send for him to take a glass with us : he'll give you her whole history, and 'tis worth your hearing.

Col. But may one trust him ?

Free. With your life : I have obligations enough upon him to make him do any thing : I serve him with wine. [Knocks.

Col. Nay, I know him very well myself. I once used to frequent a club that was kept here.

Enter Drawer.

Draw. Gentlemen, d'ye call ?

Free. Ay ; send up your master.

Draw. Yes, sir. [Exit.

Col. Do you know any of this lady's guardians, Freeman ?

Free. Yes, I know two of them very well.

Enter SACKBUT.

Free. Here comes one will give you an account of them all.—Mr. Sackbut, we sent for you to take a glass with us. 'Tis a maxim among the friends of the bottle, that as long as the master is in company, one may be sure of good wine.

Sack. Sir, you shall be sure to have as good wine as you send in.—Colonel, your most humble servant; you are welcome to town.

Col. I thank you, Mr. Sackbut.

Sack. I am as glad to see you as I should a hundred tun of French claret custom free.—My service to you, sir, [*Drinks.*] You don't look so merry as you used to do; ar'n't you well, colonel?

Free. He has got a woman in his head, landlord, can you help him?

Sack. If 'tis in my power, I shan't scruple to serve my friend.

Col. 'Tis one perquisite of your calling.

Sack. Ay, at t'other end of the town, where you officers use, women are good forcers of trade; a well-custom'd house, a handsome bar-keeper, with clean obliging drawers, soon get the master an estate; but our citizens seldom do any thing but cheat within the walls.—But as to the lady, colonel, point you at particulars? or have you a good Champagne stomach? Are you in full pay, or reduc'd, colonel?

Col. Reduc'd, reduc'd, landlord.

Free. To the miserable condition of a lover!

Sack. Pish! that's preferable to half-pay; a woman's resolution may break before the peace: push her home, colonel, there's no parlying with the fair sex.

Col. Were the lady her own mistress, I have some reasons to believe I should soon command in chief.

Free. You know Mrs. Lovely, Mr. Sackbut?

Sack. Know her! Ay, poor Nancy: I have carried her to school many a frosty morning. Alas! if she's the woman, I pity you, colonel: her father, my old master, was the most whimsical out-of-the-way temper'd man I ever heard of, as you will guess by his last will and testament.—This was his only child: and I have heard him wish her dead a thousand times.

Col. Why so?

Sack. He hated posterity, you must know, and wish'd the world were to expire with himself.—He used to swear, if she had been a boy, he would have qualified him for the opera.

Free. 'Twas a very unnatural resolution in a father.

Sack. He died worth thirty thousand pounds, which he left to his daughter, provided she married with the consent of her guardian—but that she might be sure never to do so, he left her in the care of four men, as opposite to each other as the four elements; each has his quarterly rule, and three months in a year she is oblig'd to be subject to each of their humours, and

they are pretty different, I assure you.—She is just come from Bath.

Col. 'Twas there I saw her.

Sack. Ay, sir, the last quarter was her beau guardian's.—She appears in all public places during his reign.

Col. She visited a lady who boarded in the same house with me: I liked her person, and found an opportunity to tell her so. She replied, she had no objection to mine; but if I could not reconcile contradictions, I must not think of her, for that she was condemned to the caprice of four persons, who never yet agreed in any one thing, and she was obliged to please them all.

Sack. 'Tis most true, sir; I'll give you a short description of the men, and leave you to judge of the poor lady's condition. One is a kind of virtuoso, a silly half-witted fellow, but positive and surly, fond of every thing antique and foreign, and wears his clothes of the fashion of the last century; doats upon travellers, and believes more of Sir John Mandeville than he does of the Bible.

Col. That must be a rare odd fellow!

Sack. Another is a 'Change-broker; a fellow that will out-lye the devil for the advantage of stock, and cheat his father that got him, in a bargain: he is a great stickler for trade, and hates every man that wears a sword.

Free. He is a great admirer of the Dutch manage-

ment, and swears they understand trade better than any nation under the sun.

Sack. The third is an old beau, that has May in his fancy and dress, but December in his face and his heels: he admires all the new fashions, and those must be French; loves operas, balls, masquerades, and is always the most tawdry of the whole company on a birth-day.

Col. These are pretty opposite to one another, truly; and the fourth, what is he, landlord?

Sack. A very rigid quaker, whose quarter began this day.—I saw Mrs. Lovely go in, not above two hours ago,—Sir Philip set her down. What think you now, colonel, is not the poor lady to be pitied?

Col. Ay, and rescu'd too, landlord.

Free. In my opinion that's impossible.

Col. There is nothing impossible to a lover. What would not a man attempt for a fine woman and thirty thousand pounds? Besides, my honour is at stake; I promised to deliver her, and she bid me win her and wear her.

Sack. That's fair, faith.

Free. If it depended upon knight-errantry, I should not doubt your setting free the damsel; but to have avarice, impertinence, hypocrisy, and pride, at once to deal with, requires more cunning than generally attends a man of honour.

Col. My fancy tells me I shall come off with glory.

I am resolved to try, however.—Do you know all the guardians, Mr. Sackbut?

Sack. Very well, sir; they all use my house.

Col. And will you assist me, if occasion requires?

Sack. In every thing I can, colonel.

Free. I'll answer for him; and whatever I can serve you in, you may depend on. I know Mr. Periwinkle and Mr. Tradelove; the latter has a very great opinion of my interest abroad.—I happen'd to have a letter from a correspondent two hours before the news arriv'd of the French king's death: I communicated it to him: upon which he bought all the stock he could, and what with that, and some wagers he laid, he told me he had got to the tune of five hundred pounds; so that I am much in his good graces.

Col. I don't know but you may be of service to me, Freeman.

Free. If I can, command me, colonel.

Col. Isn't it possible to find a suit of clothes ready made at some of these sale-shops fit to rig out a beau, think you, Mr. Sackbut?

Sack. O hang 'em—No, colonel, they keep nothing ready made that a gentleman would be seen in: but I can fit you with a suit of clothes, if you'd make a figure.—Velvet and gold brocade—They were pawn'd to me by a French Count, who had been stript at play, and wanted money to carry him home; he promised to send for them, but I have not heard any thing of him.

Free. He has not fed upon frogs long enough yet to recover his loss ; ha, ha !

Col. Ha, ha ! Well, the clothes will do Mr. Sackbut,—tho' we must have three or four fellows in tawdry liveries : they can be procur'd, I hope.

Free. Egad ! I have a brother come from the West-Indies that can match you ; and, for expedition-sake, you shall have his servants : there's a black, a tawney-moor, and a Frenchman ; they don't speak one word of English, so can make no mistake.

Col. Excellent!—Egad ! I shall look like an Indian prince. First, I'll attack my beau guardian ; where lives he ?

Sack. Faith, somewhere about St. James's ; tho' to say in what street I cannot ; but any chairman will tell you where Sir Philip Modelove lives.

Free. Oh ! you'll find him in the Park at eleven every day ; at least, I never pass thro' at that hour without seeing him there.—But what do you intend ?

Col. To address him in his own way, and find what he designs to do with the lady.

Free. And what then ?

Col. Nay, that I cann't tell ; but I shall take my measures accordingly.

Sack. Well, 'tis a mad undertaking in my mind : but here's to your success, colonel. [*Drinks.*

Col. 'Tis something out of the way, I confess ; but fortune may chance to smile, and I succeed.—Come, landlord, let me see those clothes. Freeman, I shall expect you'll leave word with Mr. Sackbut where one

may find you upon occasion ; and send me my Indian equipage immediately, d'ye hear ?

Free. Immediately. [Exit.

Col. *Bold was the man who ventur'd first to sea,
But the first vent'ring lovers bolder were.*

*The path of love's a dark and dang'rous way,
Without a landmark, or one friendly star,
And he that runs the risque deserves the fair.* [Exit.

SCENE II.

PRIM'S House. Enter Mrs. LOVELY and her Maid
BETTY.

Betty. Bless me, madam ! Why do you fret and tease yourself so ? This is giving them the advantage with a witness.

Mrs. Lov. Must I be condemned all my life to the preposterous humours of other people, and pointed at by every boy in town ?——Oh ! I could tear my flesh, and curse the hour I was born—Isn't it monstrously ridiculous, that they should desire to impose their Quaking dress upon me at these years ? When I was a child, no matter what they made me wear, but now——

Betty. I would resolve against it, madam ; I'd see 'em hang'd before I'd put on the pinch'd cap again.

Mrs. Lov. Then I must never expect one moment's ease : she has rung such a peal in my ears already,

that I sha'n't have the right use of them this month.
——What can I do?

Betty. What can you *not* do, if you will but give your mind to it? *Marry*, madam.

Mrs. Lov. What! and have my fortune go to build churches and hospitals?

Betty. Why, let it go. ——If the colonel loves you, as he pretends, he'll marry you without a fortune, madam; and I assure you a colonel's lady is no despicable thing; a colonel's post will maintain you like a gentlewoman, madam.

Mrs. Lov. So you would advise me to give up my own fortune, and throw myself upon the colonel's.

Betty. I would advise you to make yourself easy, madam.

Mrs. Lov. That's not the way, I'm sure. No, no, girl, there are certain ingredients to be mingled with matrimony, without which I may as well change for the worse as the better. When the woman has fortune enough to make the man happy, if he has either honour or good manners, he'll make her easy. Love makes but a slovenly figure in a house, where poverty keeps the door.

Betty. And so you resolve to die a maid, do you, madam?

Mrs. Lov. Or have it in my power to make the man I love master of my fortune.

Betty. Then you don't like the colonel so well as I thought you did, madam, or you would not take such a resolution.

Mrs. Lov. It is because I do like him, Betty, that I do take such a resolution.

Betty. Why, do you expect, madam, the colonel can work miracles? Is it possible for him to marry you with the consent of all your guardians?

Mrs. Lov. Or he must not marry me at all: and so I told him; and he did not seem displeased with the news.—He promised to set me free; and I, on that condition, promised to make him master of that freedom.

Betty. Well! I have read of enchanted castles, ladies delivered from the chains of magic, giants kill'd, and monsters overcome; so that I shall be the less surprised if the colonel should conjure you out of the power of your four guardians; if he does, I am sure he deserves your fortune.

Mrs. Lov. And shall have it, girl, if it were ten times as much—For I'll ingenuously confess to thee, that I do like the colonel above all the men I ever saw:—There's something so *jantée* in a soldier, a kind of *je-ne-sçai-quoi* air, that makes them more agreeable than the rest of mankind.—They command regard, as who shall say, We are your defenders. We preserve your beauties from the insults of rude and unpolish'd foes, and ought to be preferr'd before those lazy indolent mortals, who, by dropping into their fathers' estates, set up their coaches, and think to rattle themselves into our affections.

Betty. Nay, madam, I confess that the army has

engrossed all the prettiest fellows—A laced coat and a feather have irresistible charms.

Mrs. Lov. But the colonel has all the beauties of the mind as well as the body.—O all ye powers that favour happy lovers, grant that he may be mine! Thou god of love, if thou be'st aught but name, assist my Fainwell!

*Point all thy darts to aid his just design,
And make his plots as prevalent as thine.* [Exeunt.]

ACT II. SCENE I.

The Park. Enter Colonel finely drest, three Footmen after him.

Colonel.

So, now if I can but meet this beau!—Egad! methinks, I cut a smart figure, and have as much of the tawdry air as any Italian Count or French Marquée of them all.—Sure I shall know this knight again—Ah! yonder he sits, making love to a mask, i'faith. I'll walk up the Mall, and come down by him. [Exit.]

Scene draws, and discovers Sir PHILIP upon a Bench, with a Woman mask'd.

Sir Phil. Well, but, my dear, are you really constant to your keeper?

Wom. Yes, really, sir.—Hey-day! Who comes yonder? He cuts a mighty figure.

Sir Phil. Ha! a stranger, by his equipage keeping so close at his heels.—He has the appearance of a man of quality.—Positively French, by his dancing air.

Wom. He crosses, as if he meant to sit down here.

Sir Phil. He has a mind to make love to thee, child.

Enter Colonel, and seats himself upon the Bench by Sir PHILIP.

Wom. It will be to no purpose if he does.

Sir Phil. Are you resolved to be cruel then?

Col. You must be very cruel indeed, if you can deny any thing to so fine a gentleman, madam.

[Takes out his Watch.]

Wom. I never mind the outside of a man.

Col. And I'm afraid thou art no judge of the inside.

Sir Phil. I am positively of your mind, sir, for creatures of her function seldom penetrate beyond the pocket.

Wom. Creatures of your composition have, indeed, generally more in their pockets than in their heads.

[Aside.]

Sir Phil. Pray what says your watch? mine is down.

[Pulling out his Watch.]

Col. I want thirty-six minutes of twelve, sir.—

[Puts up his Watch, and takes out his Snuff-box.]

Sir Phil. May I presume, sir?

Col. Sir, you honour me.

[Presenting the Box.]

Sir Phil. He speaks good English—tho' he must be a foreigner. *[Aside.]*—This snuff is extremely good,

—and the box prodigious fine; the work is French, I presume, sir.

Col. I bought it in Paris, sir—I do think the workmanship pretty neat.

Sir Phil. Neat! 'tis exquisitely fine, sir. Pray, sir, if I may take the liberty of enquiring—What country is so happy to claim the birth of the finest gentleman in the universe? France, I presume.

Col. Then you don't think me an Englishman?

Sir Phil. No, upon my soul, don't I.

Col. I am sorry for't.

Sir Phil. Impossible you should wish to be an Englishman! Pardon me, sir, this island could not produce a person of such alertness.

Col. As this mirror shews you, sir.

[*Puts up a Pocket Glass to Sir Philip's Face.*]

Wom. Coxcombs! I'm sick to hear them praise one another. One seldom gets any thing by such animals; not even a dinner, unless one can dine upon soup and celery.

Sir Phil. O Gad, sir?—Will you leave us, madam? Ha, ha! [Exit *Wom.*]

Col. She fears 'twill be only losing time to stay here, ha, ha!—I know not how to distinguish you, sir, but your mien and address speak you right honourable.

Sir Phil. Thus great souls judge of others by themselves—I am only adorn'd with knighthood, that's all, I assure you, sir; my name is Sir Philip Mode-love.

Col. Of French extraction?

Sir Phil. My father was French.

Col. One may plainly perceive it—There is a certain gaiety peculiar to my nation (for I will own myself a Frenchman) which distinguishes us everywhere—A person of your figure would be a vast addition to a coronet.

Sir Phil. I must own I had the offer of a barony about five years ago, but I abhorr'd the fatigue which must have attended it. I could never yet bring myself to join with either party.

Col. You are perfectly in the right, Sir Philip,—a fine person should not embark himself in the slovenly concern of politics: dress and pleasure are objects proper for the soul of a fine gentleman.

Sir Phil. And love——

Col. Oh! that's included under the article of pleasure.

Sir Phil. *Parbleu il est un homme d'esprit.* I must embrace you—[*Rises and embraces.*]—Your sentiments are so agreeable to mine, that we appear to have but one soul, for our ideas and conceptions are the same.

Col. I should be sorry for that. [*Aside.*]—You do me too much honour, Sir Philip.

Sir Phil. Your vivacity and *jantée* mien assured me, at first sight, there was nothing of this foggy island in your composition. May I crave your name, sir?

Col. My name is La Fainwell, sir, at your service.

Sir Phil. The La Fainwells are French, I know; tho' the name is become very numerous in Great-

Britain of late years—I was sure you was French the moment I laid my eyes upon you; I could not come into the supposition of your being an Englishman: this island produces few such ornaments.

Col. Pardon me, Sir Philip, this island has two things superior to all nations under the sun.

Sir Phil. Ah! what are they?

Col. The ladies, and the laws.

Sir Phil. The laws indeed, do claim a preference of other nations,—but, by my soul, there are fine women every where.—I must own I have felt their power in all countries.

Col. There are some finish'd beauties, I confess, in France, Italy, Germany, nay, even in Holland, *mais elles sont bien rare*: but *les belles Angloises*! Oh, Sir Philip, where find we such women! such symmetry of shape! such elegance of dress! such regularity of features! such sweetness of temper! such commanding eyes! and such bewitching smiles!

Sir Phil. Ah! *parbleu vous etes attrapé*.

Col. *Non, je vous assure, Chevalier*.—But I declare there is no amusement so agreeable to my *goût* as the conversation of a fine woman.—I could never be prevailed upon to enter into what the vulgar calls the pleasure of the bottle.

Sir Phil. My own taste, *positivement*.—A ball, or a masquerade, is certainly preferable to all the productions of the vineyard.

Col. Infinitely! I hope the people of quality in England will support that branch of pleasure, which

was imported with their peace, and since naturaliz'd by the ingenious Mr. Heidegger.

Sir Phil. The ladies assure me it will become part of the constitution—upon which I subscrib'd a hundred guineas—It will be of great service to the public, at least to the company of surgeons; and the city in general.

Col. Ha, ha! it may help to ennoble the blood of the city. Are you married, Sir Philip?

Sir Phil. No; nor do I believe I ever shall enter into that honourable state: I have an absolute *tendre* for the whole sex.

Col. That's more than they have for you, I dare swear. [Aside.

Sir Phil. And I have the honour to be very well with the ladies, I can assure you, sir; and I won't affront a million of fine women to make one happy.

Col. Nay, marriage is reducing a man's taste to a kind of half pleasure: but then it carries the blessings of peace along with it; one goes to sleep without fear, and wakes without pain.

Sir Phil. There's something of that in't; a wife is a very good dish for an English stomach,—but gross feeding for nicer palates, ha, ha, ha!

Col. I find I was very much mistaken,—I imagined you had been married to that young lady, whom I saw in the chariot with you this morning in Gracechurch-Street.

Sir Phil. Who, Nancy Lovely? I am a piece of a guardian to that lady: you must know, her father,

I thank him, joined me with three of the most preposterous old fellows—that, upon my soul, I am in pain for the poor girl;—she must certainly lead apes, as the saying is; ha, ha!

Col. That's pity, Sir Philip. If the lady would give me leave, I would endeavour to avert that curse.

Sir Phil. As to the lady, she'd gladly be rid of us at any rate, I believe; but here's the mischief, he who marries Miss Lovely, must have the consent of us all four,—or not a penny of her portion.—For my part, I shall never approve of any but a man of figure,—and the rest are not only averse to cleanliness, but have each a peculiar taste to gratify.—For my part, I declare I would prefer you to all the men I ever saw.

Col. And I her to all women——

Sir Phil. I assure you, Mr. Fainwell, I am for marrying her, for I hate the trouble of a guardian, especially among such wretches; but resolve never to agree to the choice of any one of them,—and I fancy they'll be even with me, for they never came into any proposal of mine yet.

Col. I wish I had your leave to try them, Sir Philip.

Sir Phil. With all my soul, sir, I can refuse a person of your appearance nothing.

Col. Sir, I am infinitely obliged to you.

Sir Phil. But do you really like matrimony?

Col. I believe I could with that lady.

Sir Phil. The only point in which we differ—But you are master of so many qualifications, that I can

excuse one fault; for I must think it a fault in a fine gentleman; and that you are such, I'll give it under my hand.

Col. I wish you'd give me your consent to marry Mrs. Lovely under your hand, Sir Philip.

Sir Phil. I'll do't, if you'll step into St. James's Coffee-house, where we may have pen and ink;—tho' I can't foresee what advantage my consent will be to you, without you could find a way to get the rest of the guardians.—But I'll introduce you, however: she is now at a Quaker's, where I carried her this morning, when you saw us in Gracechurch-Street.—I assure you she has an odd *ragout* of guardians, as you will find when you hear the characters, which I'll endeavour to give you as we go along.—Hey! *Pierre, Jaque, Renno*,—where are you all, scoundrels?—Order the chariot to St. James's Coffee-house.

Col. *Le Noir, la Brun, la Blanc*.—*Morbleu, ou sont ces Coquins la? Allons, Monsieur le Chevalier.*

Sir Phil. Ah! *Pardonez moi, Monsieur.*

Col. Not one step, upon my soul, Sir Philip.

Sir Phil. The best bred man in Europe, positively.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Changes to OBADIAH PRIM's House. Enter Mrs.

LOVELY, followed by Mrs. PRIM.

Mrs. Prim. Then thou wilt not obey me: and thou dost really think those fallals become thee?

Mrs. Lov. I do, indeed.

Mrs. Pr. Now will I be judged by all sober people, if I don't look more like a modest woman than thou dost, Anne.

Mrs. Lov. More like a hypocrite you mean, Mrs. Prim.

Mrs. Pr. Ah! Anne, Anne, that wicked Philip Modelove will undo thee,—Satan so fills thy heart with pride, during the three months of his guardianship, that thou becomest a stumbling block to the upright.

Mrs. Lov. Pray who are they? Are the pinch'd cap and formal hood the emblems of sanctity? Does your virtue consist in your dress, Mrs. Prim?

Mrs. Pr. It doth not consist in cut hair, spotted face, and a bare neck.—Oh the wickedness of the generation! The primitive women knew not the abomination of hoop'd petticoats.

Mrs. Lov. No, nor the abomination of cant neither. Don't tell me, Mrs. Prim, don't.—I know you have as much pride, vanity, self-conceit, and ambition among you, couched under that formal habit, and sanctified countenance, as the proudest of us all; but the world begins to see your prudery.

Mrs. Pr. Prudery! What! do they invent new words as well as new fashions? Ah! poor fantastic age, I pity thee—Poor deluded Anne, which dost thou think most resemblest the saint, and which the sinner, thy dress or mine? Thy naked bosom allureth the eye of the by-stander—encourageth the frailty of

human nature—and corrupteth the soul with evil longings.

Mrs. Lov. And pray who corrupted your son Tobias with evil longings? Your maid Tabitha wore a handkerchief, and yet he made the saint a sinner.

Mrs. Pr. Well, well, spit thy malice. I confess Satan did buffet my son Tobias, and my servant Tabitha; the evil spirit was at that time too strong, and they both became subject to its workings,—not from any outward provocation,—but from an inward call; he was not tainted with the rottenness of the fashions, nor did his eyes take in the drunkenness of beauty.

Mrs. Lov. No! that's plainly to be seen.

Mrs. Pr. Tabitha is one of the faithful; he fell not with a stranger.

Mrs. Lov. So! Then you hold wenching no crime, provided it be within the pale of your own tribe.—You are an excellent casuist, truly.

Enter OBADIAH PRIM.

Ob. Pr. Not stripp'd of thy vanity, yet, Anne!—Why dost thou not make her put it off, Sarah?

Mrs. Pr. She will not do it.

Ob. Pr. Verily, thy naked breasts troubleth my outward man; I pray thee hide 'em, Anne: put on an handkerchief, Anne Lovely.

Mrs. Lov. I hate handkerchiefs when 'tis not cold weather, Mr. Prim.

Mrs. Pr. I have seen thee wear a handkerchief; nay, and a mask to boot, in the middle of July.

Mrs. Lov. Ay, to keep the sun from scorching me.

Ob. Pr. If thou couldst not bear the sun-beams, how dost thou think man can bear thy beams? Those breasts inflame desire; let them be hid, I say.

Mrs. Lov. Let me be quiet, I say.—Must I be tormented thus for ever? Sure no woman's condition ever equalled mine! Foppery, folly, avarice and hypocrisy, are, by turns, my constant companions,—and I must vary shapes as often as a player—I cannot think my father meant this tyranny! No, you usurp an authority which he never intended you should take.

Ob. Pr. Hark thee, dost thou call good counsel tyranny? Do I, or my wife, tyrannize, when we desire thee in all love to put off thy tempting attire, and veil thy provokers to sin?

Mrs. Lov. Deliver me, good Heaven! or I shall go distracted. [Walks about.]

Mrs. Pr. So! now thy pinners are tost, and thy breasts pulled up!—Verily, they were seen enough before.—Fie upon the filthy taylor who made thy stays.

Mrs. Lov. I wish I were in my grave! Kill me rather than treat me thus.

Ob. Pr. Kill thee! ha, ha! thou thinkest thou art acting some lewd play sure:—kill thee! Art thou prepared for death, Anne Lovely? No, no, thou wouldst rather have a husband, Anne:—thou wantest a gilt coach, with six lazy fellows behind, to flaunt it in the ring of vanity, among the princes and rulers of the

land—who pamper themselves with the fatness thereof; but I will take care that none shall squander away thy father's estate: thou shalt marry none such, Anne.

Mrs. Lov. Wou'd you marry me to one of your own canting sect?

Ob. Pr. Yea, verily, no one else shall ever get my consent, I do assure thee, Anne.

Mrs. Lov. And I do assure thee, Obadiah, that I will as soon turn papist, and die in a convent.

Mrs. Pr. Oh wickedness!

Mrs. Lov. Oh stupidity!

Ob. Pr. Oh blindness of heart!

Mrs. Lov. Thou blinder of the world, don't provoke me,—lest I betray your sanctity, and leave your wife to judge of your purity:—What were the emotions of your spirit—when you squeez'd Mary by the hand last night in the pantry,—when she told you, you buss'd so filthily? Ah! you had no aversion to naked bosoms, when you begged her to shew you a little, little, little bit of her delicious bubbly:—don't you remember those words, Mr. Prim?

Mrs. Pr. What does she say, Obadiah?

Ob. Pr. She talketh unintelligibly, Sarah. Which way did she hear this? This should not have reach'd the ears of the wicked ones:—verily, it troubleth me. [*Aside.*

Enter Servant.

Serv. Philip Modelove, whom they call Sir Phi-

lip, is below, and such another with him; shall I send them up?

Ob. Pr. Yea.

[*Exit.*

Enter Sir PHILIP and Colonel.

Sir Phil. How dost thou do, friend Prim? Odsol my she-friend here too! What, are you documenting Miss Nancy; reading her a lecture upon the pinch'd coif, I warrant ye.

Mrs. Pr. I am sure thou didst never read her any lecture that was good.—My flesh riseth so at these wicked ones, that prudence adviseth me to withdraw from their sight. [*Exit.*

Col. Oh! that I could find means to speak with her! How charming she appears! I wish I could get this letter into her hand. [*Aside.*

Sir Phil. Well, Miss Cockey, I hope thou hast got the better of them.

Mrs. Lov. The difficulties of my life are not to be surmounted, Sir Philip.—I hate the impertinence of him as much as the stupidity of the other. [*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Verily, Philip, thou wilt spoil this maiden.

Sir Phil. I find we still differ in opinion; but that we may none of us spoil her, pr'ythee, Prim, let us consent to marry her.—I have sent for our brother guardians to meet me here about this very thing—Madam, will you give me leave to recommend a husband to you?—Here's a gentleman, whom, in my mind, you can have no objection to.

[*Presents the Colonel to her, she looks another way.*

Mrs. Lov. Heaven deliver me from the formal, and the fantastic fool!

Col. A fine woman,——a fine horse, and fine equipage, are the finest things in the universe: and if I am so happy to possess you, madam, I shall become the envy of mankind, as much as you outshine your whole sex.

[*As he takes her hand to kiss it, he endeavours to put a letter into it; she lets it drop——Prim takes it up.*

Mrs. Lov. I have no ambition to appear conspicuously ridiculous, sir. [Turning from him.

Col. So fail the hopes of Fainwell.

Mrs. Lov. Ha! Fainwell! 'Tis he! What have I done? Prim has the letter, and it will be discover'd.

[*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Friend, I know not thy name, so cannot call thee by it; but thou seest thy letter is unwelcome to the maiden, she will not read it.

Mrs. Lov. Nor shall you; [*Snatches the letter.*] I'll tear it in a thousand pieces, and scatter it, as I will the hopes of all those that any of you shall recommend to me. [*Tears the letter.*

Sir Phil. Ha! Right woman, faith!

Col. Excellent woman! [*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Friend, thy garb savoureth too much of the vanity of the age for my approbation; nothing that resembleth Philip Modelove shall I love, mark that;——therefore, friend Philip, bring no more of thy own apes under my roof.

Sir Phil. I am so entirely a stranger to the mon-

sters of thy breed, that I shall bring none of them I am sure.

Col. I am likely to have a pretty task by that time I have gone thro' them all; but she's a city worth taking, and 'egad I'll carry on the siege: if I can but blow up the out-works, I fancy I am pretty secure of the town. [*Aside.*]

Enter Servant.

Serv. Toby Periwinkle and Thomas Tradelove demand to see thee. [*To Sir Philip.*]

Sir Phil. Bid them come up.

Mrs. Lov. Deliver me from such an inundation of noise and nonsense. Oh, Fainwell! whatever thy contrivance be, prosper it Heaven;—but oh! I fear thou never canst redeem me.

Sir Phil. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

Enter Mr. PERIWINKLE and TRADELOVE.

These are my brother guardians, Mr. Fainwell, pr'ythee observe the creatures. [*Aside to Col.*]

Trade. Well, Sir Philip, I obey your summons.

Per. Pray, what have you to offer for the good of Mrs. Lovely, Sir Philip?

Sir Phil. First, I desire to know what you intend to do with that lady? Must she be sent to the Indies for a venture—or live an old maid, and then be enter'd amongst your curiosities, and shewn for a monster, Mr. Periwinkle?

Col. Humph, curiosities; that must be the virtuoso.
[*Aside.*]

Per. Why, what wou'd you do with her?

Sir Phil. I would recommend this gentleman to her for a husband, sir—a person, whom I have pick'd out from the whole race of mankind.

Ob. Pr. I would advise thee to shuffle him again with the rest of mankind, for I like him not.

Col. Pray, sir, without offence to your formality, what may be your objections?

Ob. Pr. Thy person; thy manners; thy dress; thy acquaintance;—thy every thing, friend.

Sir Phil. You are most particularly obliging, friend, ha, ha!

Trade. What business do you follow, pray, sir?

Col. Humph, by that question he must be the broker. [*Aside.*—Business, sir! the business of a gentleman.

Trade. That is as much as to say, you dress fine, feed high, lie with every woman you like, and pay your surgeon's bills better than your taylor's, or your butcher's.

Col. The court is much obliged to you, sir, for your character of a gentleman.

Trade. The court, sir! What would the court do without us citizens?

Sir Phil. Without your wives and daughters, you mean, Mr. Tradelove.

Per. Have you ever travell'd, sir?

Col. That question must not be answered now—
In books I have, sir.

Per. In books! That's fine travelling indeed!—
Sir Philip, when you present a person I like, he shall
have my consent to marry Mrs. Lovely; till then,
your servant. [Exit.

Col. I'll make you like me before I have done with
you, or I am mistaken. [Aside.

Trade. And when you can convince me that a beau
is more useful to my country than a merchant, you
shall have mine; 'till then, you must excuse me.

[Exit.

Col. So much for trade—I'll fit you too. [Aside.

Sir Phil. In my opinion, this is very inhuman treat-
ment, as to the lady, Mr. Prim.

Ob. Pr. Thy opinion and mine happens to differ as
much as our occupations, friend; business requireth
my presence, and folly thine; and so I must bid thee
farewell. [Exit.

Sir Phil. Here's breeding for you, Mr. Fainwell!
Gad take me,

Half my estate I'd give to see 'em bit.

Col. I hope to bite you all, if my plot hit. [Exeunt.

ACT III. SCENE I.

The Tavern. SACKBUT and the Colonel in an Egyptian Dress.

Sackbut.

A LUCKY beginning, colonel,—you have got the old beau's consent.

Col. Ay, he's a reasonable creature; but the other three will require some pains.—Shall I pass upon him, think you? 'Egad, in my mind, I look as antique as if I had been preserved in the Ark.

Sack. Pass upon him! ay, ay, as roundly as white wine dash'd with sack does for mountain and sherry, if you have assurance enough—

Col. I have no apprehension from that quarter; assurance is the cockade of a soldier.

Sack. Ay, but the assurance of a soldier differs much from that of a traveller.—Can you lye with a good grace?

Col. As heartily, when my mistress is the prize, as I would meet the foe when my country call'd, and king commanded; so don't you fear that part; if he don't know me again, I am safe.—I hope he'll come.

Sack. I wish all my debts would come as sure. I told him you had been a great traveller, had many valuable curiosities, and was a person of a most singular taste; he seem'd transported, and begg'd me to keep you till he came.

Col. Ay, ay, he need not fear my running away.—Let's have a bottle of sack, landlord; our ancestors drank sack.

Sack. You shall have it.

Col. And whereabouts is the trap-door you mentioned?

Sack. There's the conveyance, sir. [Exit.

Col. Now, if I should cheat all these roguish guardians, and carry off my mistress in triumph, it would be what the French call a *grand coup d'eclat*—Odsol here comes Periwinkle.——Ah! Deuce take this beard; pray Jupiter it does not give me the slip, and spoil all.

Enter SACKBUT with Wine, and PERIWINKLE following.

Sack. Sir, this gentleman hearing you have been a great traveller, and a person of fine speculation, begs leave to take a glass with you; he is a man of a curious taste himself.

Col. The gentleman has it in his face and garb; sir, you are welcome.

Per. Sir, I honour a traveller, and men of your enquiring disposition; the oddness of your habit pleases me extremely; 'tis very antique, and for that I like it.

Col. 'Tis very antique, sir;—this habit once belonged to the famous Claudius Ptolemeus, who lived in the year one hundred and thirty-five.

Sack. If he keeps up to the sample, he shall lye

with the devil for a bean-stack, and win it every straw. [*Aside.*

Per. A hundred and thirty-five! why, that's prodigious now!—Well, certainly 'tis the finest thing in the world to be a traveller.

Col. For my part, I value none of the modern fashions a fig-leaf.

Per. No more don't I, sir; I had rather be the jest of a fool, than his favourite.—I am laugh'd at here for my singularity—This coat, you must know, sir, was formerly worn by that ingenious and very learned person, Mr. John Tradescant, of Lambeth.

Col. John Tradescant! Let me embrace you, sir—John Tradescant was my uncle, by my mother's side; and I thank you for the honour you do his memory; he was a very curious man indeed.

Per. Your uncle, sir—Nay, then 'tis no wonder that your taste is so refined; why you have it in your blood.—My humble service to you, sir; to the immortal memory of John Tradescant, your never-to-be-forgotten uncle. [*Drinks.*

Col. Give me a glass, landlord.

Per. I find you are primitive, even in your wine; Canary was the drink of our wise forefathers; 'tis balsamic, and saves the charge of 'pothecaries cordials—Oh! that I had lived in your uncle's days! or rather, that he were now alive;—Oh! how proud he'd be of such a nephew!

Sack. Oh, pox! that would have spoil'd the jest.

[*Aside.*

Per. A person of your curiosity must have collected many rarities.

Col. I have some, sir, which are not yet come ashore ; as an Egyptian idol.

Per. Pray, what may that be ?

Col. It is, sir, a kind of an ape, which they formerly worshipp'd in that country ; I took it from the breast of a female mummy.

Per. Ha, ha ! our women retain part of their idolatry to this day, for many an ape lies on a lady's breast, ha, ha !——

Sack. A smart old thief.

[*Aside.*

Col. Two tusks of an Hippopotamus, two pair of Chinese nut-crackers, and one Egyptian mummy.

Per. Pray, sir, have you never a crocodile ?

Col. Humph ! the boatswain brought one with a design to shew it, but touching at Rotterdam, and hearing it was no rarity in England, he sold it to a Dutch poet.

Sack. The devil's in that nation, it rivals us in every thing.

Per. I should have been very glad to have seen a living crocodile.

Col. My genius led me to things more worthy of regard——Sir, I have seen the utmost limits of this globular world ; I have seen the sun rise and set ; know in what degree of heat he is at noon, to the breadth of a hair, and what quantity of combustibles he burns in a day, and how much of it turns to ashes and how much to cinders.

Per. To cinders! You amaze me, sir, I never heard that the sun consum'd any thing.—Descartes tells us——

Col. Descartes, with the rest of his brethren, both ancient and modern, knew nothing of the matter.—I tell you, sir, that nature admits an annual decay, tho' imperceptible to vulgar eyes.—Sometimes his rays destroy below, sometimes above.—You have heard of blazing comets, I suppose?

Per. Yes, yes, I remember to have seen one, and our astrologers tell us of another which will happen very quickly.

Col. Those comets are little islands bordered on the sun, which at certain times are set on fire by that luminous body's moving over them perpendicular, which will one day occasion a general conflagration.

Sack. One need not scruple the colonel's capacity, faith. *[Aside.*

Per. This is marvellous strange! These cinders are what I never read of in any of our learned dissertations.

Col. I don't know how the devil you should. *[Aside.*

Sack. He has it at his fingers ends; one would swear he had learn'd to lye at school, he does it so cleverly. *[Aside.*

Per. Well! you travellers see strange things! Pray, sir, have you any of those cinders?

Col. I have, among my other curiosities.

Per. Oh, what have I lost for want of travelling! Pray, what have you else?

Col. Several things worth your attention.—I have a muff made of the feathers of those geese that sav'd the Roman capitol.

Per. Is't possible?

Sack. Yes, if you are such a gander as to believe him. [*Aside.*]

Col. I have an Indian leaf, which, open, will cover an acre of land, yet folds up in so little a compass, you may put it into your snuff-box.

Sack. Humph! That's a thunderer. [*Aside.*]

Per. Amazing!

Col. Ah! mine is but a little one; I have seen some of them that would cover one of the Caribbee Islands.

Per. Well, if I don't travel before I die, I sha'n't rest in my grave——Pray, what do the Indians with them?

Col. Sir, they use them in their wars for tents, the old women for riding-hoods, the young for fans and umbrellas.

Sack. He has a fruitful invention. [*Aside.*]

Per. I admire our East India Company imports none of them; they would certainly find their account in them.

Col. Right, if they could find the leaves. [*Aside.*]
——Look ye, sir, do you see this little phial?

Per. Pray you, what is it?

Col. This is call'd Poluflosboio.

Per. Poluflosboio!——It has a rumbling sound.

Col. Right, sir; it proceeds from a rumbling nature.——This water was part of those waves which

bore Cleopatra's vessel when she sail'd to meet Antony.

Per. Well, of all that ever travelled, none had a taste like you.

Col. But here's the wonder of the world.—This, sir, is called Zona, or Moros Musphonon; the virtues of this are inestimable.

Per. Moros Musphonon! What in the name of wisdom can that be?—To me it seems a plain belt.

Col. This girdle has carried me all the world over.

Per. You have carried it, you mean.

Col. I mean as I say, sir.—Whenever I am girded with this, I am invisible; and by turning this little screw, can be in the court of the Great Mogul, the Grand Signior, and King George, in as little time as your cook can poach an egg.

Per. You must pardon me, sir, I can't believe it.

Col. If my landlord pleases, he shall try the experiment immediately.

Sack. I thank you kindly, sir, but I have no inclination to ride post to the devil.

Col. No, no, you sha'n't stir a foot, I'll only make you invisible.

Sack. But if you could not make me visible again.

Per. Come, try it upon me, sir, I am not afraid of the devil, nor all his tricks.—'Sbud, I'll stand 'em all.

Col. There, sir, put it on.—Come, landlord, you and I must face the East. [*They turn about.*] Is it on, sir?

Per. 'Tis on. *[They turn about again.]*

Sack. Heaven protect me! Where is he?

Per. Why here, just where I was.

Sack. Where, where, in the name of virtue? Ah, poor Mr. Periwinkle!—Egad, look to't, you had best, sir; and let him be seen again, or I shall have you burnt for a wizard.

Col. Have patience, good landlord.

Per. But really don't you see me now?

Sack. No more than I see my grandmother, that died forty years ago.

Per. Are you sure you don't lye? Methinks I stand just where I did, and see you as plain as I did before.

Sack. Ah! I wish I could see you once again.

Col. Take off the girdle, sir. *[He takes it off.]*

Sack. Ah, sir, I am glad to see you with all my heart. *[Embraces him.]*

Per. This is very odd; certainly there must be some trick in't.—Pray, sir, will you do me the favour to put it on yourself.

Col. With all my heart.

Per. But first I'll secure the door.

Col. You know how to turn the screw, Mr. Sack-but?

Sack. Yes, yes.—Come, Mr. Periwinkle, we must turn full East.

[They turn, the Colonel sinks down the Trap-door.]

Col. 'Tis done, now turn. *[They turn.]*

Per. Ha! Mercy upon me; my flesh creeps upon

my bones.—This must be a conjurer, Mr. Sackbut.

Sack. He is the devil, I think.

Per. Oh, Mr. Sackbut, why do you name the devil, when perhaps he may be at your elbow?

Sack. At my elbow, marry, Heaven forbid.

Col. Are you satisfied? [*From under the Stage.*

Per. Yes, sir, yes—How hollow his voice sounds!

Sack. Yours seem'd just the same—Faith, I wish this girdle were mine, I'd sell wine no more. Hark ye, Mr. Periwinkle, [*Takes him aside till the Colonel rises again.*] if he would sell this girdle, you might travel with great expedition.

Col. But it is not to be parted with for money.

Per. I am sorry for't, sir, because I think it the greatest curiosity I ever heard of.

Col. By the advice of a learned physiognomist in Grand Cairo, who consulted the lines in my face, I returned to England, where he told me I should find a rarity in the keeping of *four* men, which I was born to possess for the benefit of mankind; and the *first* of the *four* that gave me his consent, I should present him with this girdle—'Till I have found this jewel, I shall not part with the girdle.

Per. What can that rarity be? Didn't he name it to you?

Col. Yes, sir: he called it a chaste, beautiful, unaffected woman.

Per. Pish! Women are no rarities—I never had any great taste that way. I married, indeed, to please

my father, and I got a girl to please my wife ; but she and the child (thank Heaven) died together—— Women are the very gewgaws of the creation ; play-things for boys, who, when they write man, they ought to throw aside.

Sack. A fine lecture to be read to a circle of ladies !

[*Aside.*]

Per. What woman is there, drest in all the pride and foppery of the times, can boast of such a fore-top as the cockatoo ?

Col. I must humour him—[*Aside.*]—Such a skin as the lizard ?

Per. Such a shining breast as the humming bird ?

Col. Such a shape as the antelope ?

Per. Or, in all the artful mixture of their various dresses, have they half the beauty of one box of butterflies ?

Col. No, that must be allow'd—For my part, if it were not for the benefit of mankind, I'd have nothing to do with them, for they are as indifferent to me as a sparrow or a flesh-fly.

Per. Pray, sir, what benefit is the world to reap from this lady ?

Col. Why, sir, she is to bear me a son, who shall revive the art of embalming, and the old Roman manner of burying their dead ; and, for the benefit of posterity, he is to discover the longitude, so long sought for in vain.

Per. Od ! these are valuable things, Mr. Sackbut !

Sack. He hits it off admirably, and t' other swal-

looks it like sack and sugar—[*Aside.*]—Certainly this lady must be your ward, Mr. Periwinkle, by her being under the care of four persons.

Per. By the description it should——'Egad, if I could get that girdle, I'd ride with the sun, and make the tour of the world in four and twenty hours.—[*Aside.*] And are you to give that girdle to the first of the four guardians that shall give his consent to marry that lady, say you, sir?

Col. I am so order'd, when I can find him.

Per. I fancy I know the very woman—her name is Anne Lovely?

Col. Excellent!—he said, indeed, that the first letter of her name was L.

Per. Did he really?—Well, that's prodigiously amazing, that a person in Grand Cairo should know any thing of my ward.

Col. Your ward!

Per. To be plain with you, sir, I am one of those four guardians.

Col. Are you indeed, sir? I am transported to find the man who is to possess this Moros Musphonon is a person of so curious a taste—Here is a writing drawn up by that famous Egyptian, which if you will please to sign, you must turn your face full north, and the girdle is yours.

Per. If I live till this boy is born, I'll be embalm'd, and sent to the Royal Society when I die.

Col. That you shall most certainly.

Enter Drawer.

Draw. Here's Mr. Staytape the taylor enquires for you, colonel.

Col. Who do you speak to, you son of a whore?

Per. Hal colonel. [*Aside.*]

Col. Confound the blundering dog! [*Aside.*]

Draw. Why, to colonel——

Sack. Get you out, you rascal.

[*Kicks him out, and goes after him.*]

Draw. What the devil is the matter?

Col. This dog has ruin'd all my schemes, I see by Periwinkle's looks. [*Aside.*]

Per. How finely I should have been chous'd—colonel, you'll pardon me that I did not give you your title before—it was pure ignorance, faith it was—— Pray—hem, hem! Pray, colonel, what post had this learned Egyptian in your regiment?

Col. A pox of your sneer. [*Aside.*] I don't understand you, sir.

Per. No, that's strange! I understand you, colonel——An Egyptian of Grand Cairo! ha, ha, ha!—I am sorry such a well-invented tale should do you no more service——We old fellows can see as far into a millstone as them that pick it—I am not to be trick'd out of my trust—mark that.

Col. The devil! I must carry it off, I wish I were fairly out. [*Aside.*] Look ye, sir, you may make what jest you please—but the stars will be obey'd, sir, and, depend upon't, I shall have the lady, and you

none of the girdle.—Now for Mr. Freeman's part of the plot. [*Aside.*] [*Exit.*

Per. The stars! ha, ha!—No star has favoured you, it seems——The girdle! ha, ha, ha! none of your legerdemain tricks can pass upon me——Why, what a pack of trumpery has this rogue picked up—His Pagod, Poluflosboio, his Zonas, Moros Musphonons, and the devil knows what——But I'll take care—Ha, gone!—Ay, 'twas time to sneak off.—Soho! the house! [*Enter Sackbut.*] Where is this trickster? Send for a constable, I'll have this rascal before the lord mayor; I'll Grand Cairo him, with a pox to him—I believe you had a hand in putting this imposture upon me, Sackbut.

Sack. Who I, Mr. Periwinkle? I scorn it; I perceiv'd he was a cheat, and left the room on purpose to send for a constable to apprehend him, and endeavour'd to stop him when he went out—But the rogue made but one step from the stairs to the door, call'd a coach, leap'd into it, and drove away like the devil, as Mr. Freeman can witness, who is at the bar, and desires to speak with you; he is this minute come to town.

Per. Send him in. [*Exit Sackbut.*] What a scheme this rogue has laid! How I should have been laugh'd at, had it succeeded!

Enter FREEMAN, booted and spurr'd.

Mr. Freeman, your dress commands your welcome to

town; what will you drink? I had like to have been impos'd upon here by the veriest rascal——

Free. I am sorry to hear it—The dog flew for't; he had not 'scaped me, if I had been aware of him; Sackbut struck at him but miss'd his blow, or he had done his business for him.

Per. I believe you never heard of such a contrivance, Mr. Freeman, as this fellow had found out.

Free. Mr. Sackbut has told me the whole story, Mr. Periwinkle; but now I have something to tell you of much more importance to yourself.—I happen'd to lie one night at Coventry, and knowing your uncle Sir Toby Periwinkle, I paid him a visit, and, to my great surprise, found him dying.

Per. Dying!

Free. Dying, in all appearance; the servants weeping, the room in darkness: the 'pothecary, shaking his head, told me the doctors had given him over; and then there are small hopes, you know.

Per. I hope he made his will—he always told me he would make me his heir.

Free. I have heard you say as much, and therefore resolved to give you notice. I should think it would not be amiss if you went down to-morrow morning.

Per. It is a long journey, and the roads very bad.

Free. But he has a great estate, and the land very good——Think upon that.

Per. Why, that's true, as you say; I'll think upon it: in the mean time, I give you many thanks for

your civility, Mr. Freeman, and should be glad of your company to dine with me.

Free. I am oblig'd to be at Jonathan's coffee-house at two, and now it is half an hour after one; if I dispatch my business, I'll wait on you; I know your hour.

Per. You shall be very welcome, Mr. Freeman, and so your humble servant. [*Exit.*]

Re-enter Colonel and SACKBUT.

Free. Ha, ha, ha! I have done your business, colonel; he has swallow'd the bait.

Col. I overheard all, though I am a little in the dark; I am to personate a highwayman, I suppose—that's a project I am not fond of; for though I may fright him out of his consent, he may fright me out of my life, when he discovers me, as he certainly must in the end.

Free. No, no, I have a plot for you without danger, but first we must manage Tradelove—Has the taylor brought your clothes?

Sack. Yes, pox take the thief.

Free. Well, well, no matter, I warrant we have him yet—But now you must put on the Dutch merchant.

Col. The deuce of this trading plot—I wish he had been an old soldier, that I might have attack'd him in my own way, heard him fight o'er all the battles of the late war—But for trade, by Jupiter, I shall never do it.

Sack. Never fear, colonel, Mr. Freeman will instruct you.

Free. You'll see what others do, the coffee-house will instruct you.

Col. I must venture, however——But I have a farther plot in my head upon Tradelove, which you must assist me in, Freeman; you are in credit with him, I heard you say.

Free. I am, and will scruple nothing to serve you, colonel.

Col. Come along then——Now for the Dutchman——Honest Ptolomy. By your leave.

Now must bag-wig and business come in play;

A thirty thousand pound girl leads the way.

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Jonathan's Coffee-house, in 'Change-alley. A crowd of People with Rolls of Paper and Parchment in their Hands; a Bar, and Coffee Boys waiting. Enter TRADELOVE and Stock-Jobbers, with Rolls of Paper and Parchment.

1st Stock-Jobber.

SOUTH-Sea at seven-eighths; who buys?

2d Stock. South-Sea bonds due at Michaelmas, 1718. Class lottery-tickets?

3d Stock. East India bonds?

4th Stock. What, all sellers and no buyers? Gen-

tllemen, I'll buy a thousand pound for Tuesday next, at three-fourths.

Coff. Boy. Fresh coffee, gentlemen, fresh coffee?

Trade. Hark ye, Gabriel, you'll pay the difference of that stock we transacted for t'other day?

Gab. Ay, Mr. Tradelove, here's a note for the money upon the Sword Blade Company.

[*Gives him a Note.*]

Coff. Boy. Bohea-tea, gentlemen?

Enter a Man.

Man. Is Mr. Smuggle here?

1st Coff. Boy. Mr. Smuggle's not here, sir, you'll find him at the books.

2d Stock. Ho! here comes two sparks from t'other end of the town; what news bring they?

Enter two Gentlemen.

Trade. I would fain bite the spark in the brown coat; he comes very often into the Alley, but never employs a broker.

Enter Colonel and FREEMAN.

2d Stock. Who does any thing in the Civil List lottery? or Caco? Zounds, where are all the Jews this afternoon? Are you a bull or a bear to-day, Abraham?

3d Stock. A bull, faith—but I have a good put for next week.

Trade. Mr. Freeman, your servant! Who is that gentleman?

Free. A Dutch merchant just come to England; but hark ye, Mr. Tradelove—I have a piece of news will get you as much as the French king's death did if you are expeditious.

Free. [*Shewing him a Letter.*] Read there, I received it just now from one that belongs to the Emperor's minister.

Trade. [*Reads.*] *Sir, as I have many obligations to you, I cannot miss any opportunity to shew my gratitude; this moment my lord has receiv'd a private express, that the Spaniards have rais'd their siege from before Cagliari; if this proves any advantage to you, it will answer both the ends and wishes of, sir, your most obliged humble servant,*

Henricus Dusseldorp.

Postscript.

In two or three hours the news will be public.

May one depend upon this, Mr. Freeman?

[*Aside to Freeman.*

Free. You may.—I never knew this person send me a false piece of news in my life.

Trade. Sir, I am much obliged to you—'Egad, 'tis rare news.—Who sells South Sea for next week?

Stock-Job. [*All together.*] I sell; I, I, I, I, I sell.

1st Stock. I'll sell 5000l. for next week, at five-eighths.

2d Stock.—I'll sell ten thousand, at five-eighths, for the same time.

Trade. Nay, nay, hold, hold, not all together, gen-

tllemen, I'll be no bull, I'll buy no more than I can take: will you sell ten thousand pounds at a half, for any day next week, except Saturday?

1st Stock. I'll sell it you, Mr. Tradelove.

Free. [*Whispers to one of the Gentlemen.*]

Gent. [*Aside.*] The Spaniards rais'd the siege of Cagliari; I don't believe one word of it.

2d Gent. Rais'd the siege; as much as you have rais'd the monument.

Free. 'Tis rais'd, I assure you, sir.

2d Gent. What will you lay on't?

Free. What you please.

1st Gent. Why, I have a brother upon the spot, in the Emperor's service; I am certain if there were any such thing, I should have had a letter.

2d Stock. How's this? the siege of Cagliari rais'd? —I wish it may be true, 'twill make business stir, and stocks rise.

1st Stock. Tradelove's a cunning fat bear; if this news proves true, I shall repent I sold him the five thousand pounds.—Pray, sir, what assurance have you that the siege is rais'd?

Free. There is come an express to the Emperor's minister.

2d Stock. I'll know that presently.

1st Gent. Let it come where it will, I'll hold you fifty pounds 'tis false.

Free. 'Tis done.

2d Gent. I'll lay you a brace of hundreds upon the same.

Free. I'll take you.

4th Stock. 'Egad, I'll hold twenty pieces 'tis not rais'd, sir.

Free. Done with you too.

Trade. I'll lay any man a brace of thousands the siege is rais'd.

Free. The Dutch merchant is your man to take in.

[*Aside to Tradelove.*

Trade. Does not he know the news?

Free. Not a syllable; if he did, he would bet a hundred thousand pounds as soon as one penny;—he's plaguy rich, and a mighty man at wagers.

[*To Tradelove.*

Trade. Say you so—'Egad, I'll bite him, if possible.—Are you from Holland, sir?

Col. Ya, mynheer.

Trade. Had you the news before you came away?

Col. What believe you, mynheer?

Trade. What do I believe? Why, I believe that the Spaniards have actually rais'd the siege of Cagliari.

Col. Wat duyvel's news is dat? 'Tis niet waer, mynheer——'tis no true, sir.

Trade. 'Tis so true, mynheer, that I'll lay you two thousand pounds upon it.—You are sure the letter may be depended upon, Mr. Freeman?

Free. Do you think I would venture my money, if I were not sure of the truth of it? [*Aside to Trade.*

Col. Two duysend pound, mynheer, 'tis gadaen—dis gentleman sal hold de gelt. [*Gives Free. money.*

Trade. With all my heart—this binds the wager.

Free. You have certainly lost, mynheer, the siege is rais'd indeed.

Col. Ik gelov't niet, Mynheer Freeman, ik sal ye dubbled honden, if you please.

Free. I am let into the secret, therefore won't win your money.

Trade. Ha, ha, ha! I have snapt the Dutchman, faith, ha, ha! this is no ill day's work.—Pray, may I crave your name, mynheer?

Col. Myn naem, mynheer! myn naem is Jan van Timtamtirelereletta Heer Fainwell.

Trade. Zounds, 'tis a damn'd long name, I shall never remember it—Myn Heer van, Tim, Tim, Tim, —What the devil is it?

Free. Oh! never heed, I know the gentleman, and will pass my word for twice the sum.

Trade. That's enough.

Col. You'll hear of me sooner than you'll wish, old gentleman, I fancy. [*Aside.*] You'll come to Sackbut's, Freeman. [*Exit.*

Free. Immediately. [*Aside to the Colonel.*

1st Man. Humphry Hump here?

2d Boy. Mr. Humphry Hump is not here; you'll find him upon the Dutch walk.

Trade. Mr. Freeman, I give you many thanks for your kindness——

Free. I fear you'll repent when you know all. [*Aside.*

Trade. Will you dine with me?

Free. I'm engag'd at Sackbut's; adieu. [*Exit.*

Trade. Sir, your humble servant. Now I'll see what I can do upon 'Change with my news. [Exit.]

SCENE II.

The Tavern. Enter FREEMAN and Colonel.

Free. Ha, ha, ha! The old fellow swallowed the bait as greedily as a gudgeon.

Col. I have him, faith, ha, ha, ha!—His two thousand pounds secure——If he would keep his money, he must part with the lady, ha, ha!——What came of your two friends? they perform'd their part very well; you should have brought 'em to take a glass with us.

Free. No matter, we'll drink a bottle together another time.——I did not care to bring them hither; there's no necessity to trust them with the main secret, you know, colonel.

Col. Nay, that's right, Freeman.

Enter SACKBUT.

Sack. Joy, joy, colonel! the luckiest accident in the world.

Col. What say'st thou?

Sack. This letter does your business.

Col. [Reads.] To Obadiah Prim, Hosier, near the building call'd the Monument, in London.

Free. A letter to Prim! How came you by it?

Sack. Looking over the letters our post-woman

brought, as I always do, to see what letters are directed to my house (for she can't read, you must know), I 'spy'd this directed to Prim, so paid for it among the rest; I have given the old jade a pint of wine on purpose to delay time, till you see if the letter be of any service; then I'll seal it up again, and tell her I took it by mistake;—I have read it, and fancy you'll like the project.—Read, read, colonel.

Col. [Reads.] Friend Prim, there is arrived from Pennsylvania one Simon Pure, a leader of the faithful, who hath sojourned with us eleven days, and hath been of great comfort to the brethren.—He intendeth for the quarterly meeting in London; I have recommended him to thy house. I pray thee treat him kindly, and let thy wife cherish him, for he's of weakly constitution—he will depart from us the third day; which is all from thy friend in the faith,

Aminadab Holdfast.

Ha, ha, excellent! I understand you, landlord, I am to personate this Simon Pure, am I not?

Sack. Don't you like the hint?

Col. Admirably well!

Free. 'Tis the best contrivance in the world, if the right Simon gets not there before you——

Col. No, no, the Quakers never ride post; he can't be here before to-morrow at soonest: do you send and buy me a Quaker's dress, Mr. Sackbut; and suppose, Freeman, you should wait at the Bristol coach, that if you see any such person, you might contrive to give me notice.——

Free. I will—the country dress and boots, are they ready?

Sack. Yes, yes, every thing, sir.

Free. Bring 'em in then.—[*Exit Sack.*] Thou must dispatch Periwinkle first—remember his uncle, Sir Toby Periwinkle, is an old batchelor of seventy-five—that he has seven hundred a year, most in abbey land—that he was once in love with your mother, shrewdly suspected by some to be your father—that you have been thirty years his steward—and ten years his gentleman—remember to improve these hints.

Col. Never fear, let me alone for that—but what's the steward's name?

Free. His name is Pillage.

Col. Enough—[*Enter Sackbut with Clothes.*]—
Now for the country put— [Dresses.

Free. 'Egad, landlord, thou deservest to have the first night's lodging with the lady for thy fidelity;—what say you, colonel, shall we settle a club here? you'll make one?

Col. Make one! I'll bring a set of honest officers, that will spend their money as freely to the king's health, as they would their blood in his service.

Sack. I thank you, colonel; here, here. [*Bell rings.*
[*Exit Sackbut.*

Col. So, now for my boots. [*Puts on boots.*] Shall I find you here, Freeman, when I come back?

Free. Yes,—or I'll leave word with Sackbut where he may send for me—Have you the writings, the will—and every thing?

Col. All, all!——

Enter SACKBUT.

Sack. Zounds! Mr. Freeman! yonder is Trade-love in the damned'st passion in the world—He swears you are in the house—he says you told him you were to dine here.

Free. I did so, ha, ha, ha! he has found himself bit already.——

Col. The devil! he must not see me in this dress.

Sack. I told him I expected you here, but you were not come yet——

Free. Very well—make you haste out, colonel, and let me alone to deal with him: where is he?

Sack. In the King's Head.

Col. You remember what I told you?

Free. Ay, ay, very well. Landlord, let him know I am come in—and now, Mr. Pillage, success attend you. *[Exit Sack.]*

Col. Mr. Proteus rather——

From changing shape, and imitating Jove,

I draw the happy omens of my love.

I'm not the first young brother of the blade,

Who made his fortune in a masquerade.

[Exit Colonel.]

Enter TRADELOVE.

Free. Zounds! Mr. Tradelove, we're bit, it seems.

Trade. Bit, do you call it, Mr. Freeman! I am ruin'd.——Pox on your news.

Free. Pox on the rascal that sent it me.——

Trade. Sent it you! Why Gabriel Skinflint has been at the minister's, and spoke with him, and he has assur'd him 'tis every syllable false; he received no such express.

Free. I know it: I this minute parted with my friend, who protested he never sent me any such letter——Some roguish stock-jobber has done it on purpose to make me lose my money, that's certain: I wish I knew who he was, I'd make him repent it—I have lost gool. by it.

Trade. What signifies your three hundred pounds to what I have lost? There's two thousand pounds to that Dutchman with a cursed long name, besides the stock I bought: the devil! I could tear my flesh—I must never shew my face upon 'Change more;——for, by my soul, I can't pay it.

Free. I am heartily sorry for it! What can I serve you in? Shall I speak to the Dutch merchant, and try to get you time for the payment.

Trade. Time! Ads'heart, I shall never be able to look up again.

Free. I am very much concern'd that I was the occasion, and wish I could be an instrument of retrieving your misfortune; for my own, I value it not. Adso, a thought comes into my head, that, well improv'd, may be of service.

Trade. Ah! there's no thought can be of any service to me, without paying the money, or running away.

Free. How do we know? What do you think of my proposing Mrs. Lovely to him? He is a single man—and I heard him say he had a mind to marry an English woman——nay, more than that, he said somebody told him you had a pretty ward—he wish'd you had betted her instead of your money.

Trade. Ay, but he'd be hang'd before he'd take her instead of the money; the Dutch are too covetous for that; besides, he did not know that there were three more of us, I suppose.

Free. So much the better; you may venture to give him your consent, if he'll forgive you the wager: it is not your business to tell him that your consent will signify nothing.

Trade. That's right, as you say; but will he do it, think you?

Free. I can't tell that; but I'll try what I can do with him——He has promis'd to meet me here an hour hence; I'll feel his pulse, and let you know: if I find it feasible, I'll send for you; if not, you are at liberty to take what measures you please.

Trade. You must extol her beauty, double her portion, and tell him I have the entire disposal of her, and that she can't marry without my consent;——and that I am a covetous rogue, and will never part with her without a valuable consideration.

Free. Ay, ay, let me alone for a lye at a pinch.

Trade. 'Egad, if you can bring this to bear, Mr. Freeman, I'll make you whole again; I'll pay the three hundred pounds you lost with all my soul.

Free. Well, I'll use my best endeavours——Where will you be?

Trade. At home; pray Heaven you prosper——If I were but the sole trustee now, I should not fear it. Who the devil would be a guardian?

If, when cash runs low, our coffers t' enlarge,

We cann't, like other stocks, transfer our charge? [Exit.

Free. Ha, ha, ha!——he has it. [Exit.

SCENE III.

Changes to PERIWINKLE'S House. Enter PERIWINKLE on one Side, and Footmen on t'other.

Foot. A gentleman from Coventry enquires for you, sir.

Per. From my uncle, I warrant you; bring him up——This will save me the trouble, as well as the expence of a journey.

Enter Colonel.

Col. Is your name Periwinkle, sir?

Per. It is, sir.

Col. I am sorry for the message I bring——My old master, whom I served these forty years, claims the sorrow due from a faithful servant to an indulgent master. [Weeps.

Per. By this I understand, sir, my uncle, Sir Toby Periwinkle, is dead.

Col. He is, sir, and he has left you heir to seven

hundred a year, in as good abbey-land as ever paid Peter-pence to Rome.—I wish you long to enjoy it, but my tears will flow when I think of my benefactor.—[*Weeps.*] Ah! he was a good man—he has not left many of his fellows—the poor lament him sorely.

Per. I pray, sir, what office bore you?

Col. I was his steward, sir.

Per. I have heard him mention you with much respect; your name is——

Col. Pillage, sir.

Per. Ay, Pillage, I do remember he called you Pillage.—Pray, Mr. Pillage, when did my uncle die?

Col. Monday last, at four in the morning. About two he sign'd his will, and gave it into my hands, and strictly charg'd me to leave Coventry the moment he expir'd; and deliver it to you with what speed I could: I have obey'd him, sir, and there is the will. [*Gives it to Per.*]

Per. 'Tis very well, I'll lodge it in the Commons.

Col. There are two things which he forgot to insert, but charg'd me to tell you, that he desir'd you'd perform them as readily as if you had found them written in the will, which is to remove his corpse, and bury him by his father at St. Paul's, Covent-Garden, and to give all his servants mourning.

Per. That will be a considerable charge; a pox of all modern fashions. [*Aside.*] Well! it shall be done. Mr. Pillage, I will agree with one of death's fashion-

mongers, call'd an undertaker, to go down, and bring up the body.

Col. I hope, sir, I shall have the honour to serve you in the same station I did your worthy uncle; I have not many years to stay behind him, and would gladly spend them in the family, where I was brought up——[*Weeps.*]—He was a kind and tender master to me.

Per. Pray don't grieve, Mr. Pillage, you shall hold your place, and every thing else which you held under my uncle.——You make me weep to see you so concern'd. [*Weeps.*] He liv'd to a good old age, and we are all mortal.

Col. We are so, sir, and therefore I must beg you to sign this lease: you'll find Sir Toby has taken particular notice of it in his will——I could not get it time enough from the lawyer, or he had sign'd it before he died. [*Gives him a paper.*]

Per. A lease! for what?

Col. I rented a hundred a year of Sir Toby upon lease, which lease expires at Lady-day next. I desire to renew it for twenty years——that's all, sir.

Per. Let me see. [*Looks over the lease.*]

Col. Matters go swimmingly, if nothing intervene.

[*Aside.*]

Per. Very well—Let's see what he says in his will about it.

[*Lays the lease upon the table, and looks on the will.*]

Col. He's very wary, yet I fancy I shall be too cunning for him. [*Aside.*]

Per. Ho, here it is—*The farm lying—now in possession of Samuel Pillage—suffer him to renew his lease—at the same rent—*Very well, Mr. Pillage, I see my uncle does mention it, and I'll perform his will. Give me the lease—*[Col. gives it him, he looks upon it, and lays it upon the table.]* Pray you step to the door, and call for a pen and ink, Mr. Pillage.

Col. I have a pen and ink in my pocket, sir, *[Pulls out an ink-horn.]* I never go without that.

Per. I think it belongs to your profession—*[He looks upon the pen, while the colonel changes the lease, and lays down the contract.]* I doubt this is but a sorry pen, though it may serve to write my name. *[Writes.]*

Col. Little does he think what he signs. *[Aside.]*

Per. There is your lease, Mr. Pillage. *[Gives him the paper.]* Now I must desire you to make what haste you can down to Coventry, and take care of every thing, and I'll send down the undertaker for the body; do you attend it up, and whatever charge you are at, I'll repay you.

Col. You have paid me already, I thank you, sir.

Per. Will you dine with me?

Col. I would rather not; there are some of my neighbours which I met as I came along, who leave the town this afternoon, they told me, and I should be glad of their company down.

Per. Well, well, I won't detain you.

Col. I don't care how soon I am out.

Per. I will give orders about mourning.

Col. You will have cause to mourn, when you know your estate imaginary only. — *[Aside.*

You'll find your hopes and cares alike are vain,

In spite of all the caution you have ta'en,

Fortune rewards the faithful lover's pain. *[Exit.*

Per. Seven hundred a year! I wish he had died seventeen years ago:—What a valuable collection of rarities might I have had by this time!—I might have travell'd over all the known parts of the globe, and made my own closet rival the Vatican at Rome.—Odso, I have a good mind to begin my travels now; ———let me see——I am but sixty! My father, grandfather, and great grandfather, reach'd ninety odd;—I have almost forty years good:—Let me consider! what will seven hundred a year amount to in ———ay! in thirty years, I'll say but thirty——thirty times seven, is seven times thirty——that is——just twenty-one thousand pounds,—'tis a great deal of money.——I may very well reserve sixteen hundred of it for a collection of such rarities as will make my name famous to posterity;——I would not die like other mortals, forgotten in a year or two, as my uncle will be——No,

With nature's curious works I'll raise my fame,

That men, till Doom's-day, may repeat my name. *[Exit.*

SCENE IV.

Changes to a Tavern. FREEMAN and TRADELOVE
over a Bottle.

Trade. Come, Mr. Freeman, here's Mynheer Jan Van Tim, Tam, Tam;—I shall never think of that Dutchman's name—

Free. Mynheer Jan Van Timtamtirelireletta Heer Van Fainwell.

Trade. Ay, Heer Van Fainwell, I never heard such a confounded name in my life—here's his health, I say.

Free. With all my heart.

Trade. Faith I never expected to have found so generous a thing in a Dutchman.

Free. Oh, he has nothing of the Hollander in his temper—except an antipathy to monarchy.—As soon as I told him your circumstances, he reply'd, he would not be the ruin of any man for the world—and immediately made this proposal himself—Let him take what time he will for the payment, said he; or, if he'll give me his ward, I'll forgive him the debt.

Trade. Well, Mr. Freeman, I can but thank you.—'Egad you have made a man of me again! and if ever I lay a wager more, may I rot in a gaol.

Free. I assure you, Mr. Tradelove, I was very much concern'd, because I was the occasion—tho' very innocently, I protest.

Trade. I dare swear you was, Mr. Freeman.

Enter a Fiddler.

Fid. Please to have a lesson of music, or a song, gentlemen?

Free. Song; ay, with all our hearts; have you a very merry one?

Fid. Yes, sir, my wife and I can give you a merry dialogue. *[Here is the song.]*

Trade. 'Tis very pretty faith.

Free. There's something for you to drink, friend, go, lose no time.

Fid. I thank you, sir. *[Exit.]*

Enter Drawer and Colonel, dressed for the Dutch Merchant.

Col. Ha, Mynheer Tradelove, Ik ben sorry voor your troubles—maer Ik sal you easie maken, Ik will de gelt nie hebben—

Trade. I shall for ever acknowledge the obligation, sir.

Free. But you understand upon what condition, Mr. Tradelove; Mrs. Lovely.

Col. Ya, de Frow sal al te regt setten, Mynheer.

Trade. With all my heart, Mynheer; you shall have my consent to marry her freely—

Free. Well, then, as I am a party concern'd between you, Mynheer Jan Van Timamtirelireletta Heer Van Fainwell shall give you a discharge of your wager under his own hand,—and you shall give him your consent to marry Mrs. Lovely under yours,

—that is the way to avoid all manner of disputes hereafter.

Col. Ya, weeragtig.

Trade. Ay, ay, so it is, Mr. Freeman, I'll give it under mine this minute. [*Sits down to write.*]

Col. And so Ik sal. [*Does the same.*]

Free. So ho, the house. [*Enter Drawer.*] Bid your master come up—I'll see there be witnesses enough to the bargain. [*Aside.*]

Enter SACKBUT.

Sack. Do you call, gentlemen?

Free. Ay, Mr. Sackbut, we shall want your hand here—

Trade. There, Mynheer, there's my consent, as amply as you can desire; but you must insert your own name, for I know not how to spell it; I have left a blank for it. [*Gives the Colonel a paper.*]

Col. Ya Ik sal dat well doen—

Free. Now, Mr. Sackbut, you and I will witness it. [*They write.*]

Col. Daer, Mynheer Tradelove, is your discharge. [*Gives him a paper.*]

Trade. Be pleas'd to witness this receipt too, gentlemen. [*Freeman and Sackbut put their hands.*]

Free. Ay, ay, that we will.

Col. Well, Mynheer, ye most meer doen, ye most myn voorsprach to de frow syn.

Free. He means you must recommend him to the lady.—

Trade. That I will, and to the rest of my brother guardians.

Col. Wat, voor, de duyvel, heb you meer guardians?

Trade. Only three, Mynheer.

Col. What donder heb ye myn betrocken Mynheer?
—Had Ik dat gewoeten, Ik soude eaven met you geweest syn.

Sack. But Mr. Tradelove is the principal, and he can do a great deal with the rest, sir.

Free. And he shall use his interest, I promise you, mynheer.

Trade. I will say all that ever I can think on to recommend you, mynheer; and if you please, I'll introduce you to the lady.

Col. Well, dat is waer—Maer ye must first spreken of myn to de frow, and to oudere gentlemen.

Free. Ay, that's the best way,—and then I and the Heer Van Fainwell will meet you there.

Trade. I will go this moment, upon honour—
Your most obedient humble servant.—My speaking will do you little good, mynheer, ha ha! we have bit you, faith, ha, ha!

*Well—my debt's discharged, and for the man,
He has my consent—to get her, if he can.* [Exit.

Col. Ha, ha, ha! this was a masterpiece of contrivance, Freeman.

Free. He hugs himself with his supposed good fortune, and little thinks the luck's on our side!—but come, pursue the fickle goddess while she's in the mood—Now for the Quaker.

Col. That's the hardest task.

Of all the counterfeits perform'd by man,

A soldier makes the simplest puritan. [Exeunt.

ACT V. SCENE I.

PRIM's House. Enter Mrs. PRIM and Mrs. LOVELY, in Quakers' dresses, meeting.

Mrs. Prim.

So, now I like thee, Anne; art thou not better without thy monstrous hoop-coat and patches?—If Heaven should make thee so many black spots upon thy face, wou'd it not fright thee, Anne?

Mrs. Lov. If it shou'd turn your inside outward, and shew all the spots of your hypocrisy, t'would fright me worse!

Mrs. Pr. My hypocrisy! I scorn thy words, Anne, I lay no baits.

Mrs. Lov. If you did, you'd catch no fish.

Mrs. Pr. Well, well, make thy jests—but I'd have thee to know, Anne, that I cou'd have catch'd as many fish (as thou call'st them) in my time, as ever thou did'st with all thy fool-traps about thee—If admirers be thy aim, thou wilt have more of them in this dress than the other—The men, take my word for't, are more desirous to see what we are most careful to conceal.

Mrs. Lov. Is that the reason of your formality, Mrs. Prim? Truth will out: I ever thought, indeed, there was more design than goodness in the pinch'd cap.

Mrs. Pr. Go, thou art corrupted with reading lewd plays, and filthy romances——good for nothing but to lead youth into the high-road of fornication.——Ah! I wish thou art not already too familiar with the wicked ones.

Mrs. Lov. Too familiar with the wicked ones? Pray no more of those freedoms, madam——I am familiar with none so wicked as yourself:——How dare you thus talk to me! you, you, you, unworthy woman you. [Bursts into tears.]

Enter TRADELOVE.

Trade. What, in tears, Nancy? What have you done to her, Mrs. Prim, to make her weep?

Mrs. Lov. Done to me! I admire I keep my senses among you;—but I will rid myself of your tyranny, if there be either law or justice to be had;——I'll force you to give me up my liberty.

Mrs. Pr. Thou hast more need to weep for thy sins, Anne——Yea, for thy manifold sins.

Mrs. Lov. Don't think that I'll be still the fool which you have made me.——No, I'll wear what I please——go when and where I please——and keep what company I think fit, and not what you shall direct——I will.

Trade. For my part, I do think all this very reasonable, Mrs. Lovely—'tis fit you should have your liberty, and for that very purpose I am come.

Enter Mr. PERIWINKLE and OBADIAH PRIM, with a letter in his hand.

Per. I have bought some black stockings of your husband, Mrs. Prim, but he tells me the glover's trade belongs to you; therefore I pray you look me out five or six dozen of mourning gloves, such as are given at funerals, and send them to my house.

Ob. Pr. My friend Periwinkle has got a good wind-fall to-day—seven hundred a year.

Mrs. Pr. I wish thee joy of it, neighbour.

Trade. What, is Sir Toby dead then?

Per. He is! You'll take care, Mrs. Prim.

Mrs. Pr. Yea, I will, neighbour.

Ob. Pr. This letter recommendeth a speaker; 'tis from Aminadab Holdfast of Bristol; peradventure he will be here this night; therefore, Sarah, do thou take care for his reception—— [*Gives her the letter.*

Mrs. Pr. I will obey thee. [*Exit.*

Ob. Pr. What art thou in the dumps for, Anne?

Trade. We must marry her, Mr. Prim.

Ob. Pr. Why truly, if we could find a husband worth having, I should be as glad to see her married as thou wouldst, neighbour.

Per. Well said, there are but few worth having.

Trade. I can recommend you a man, now, that I think you can none of you have an objection to!

Enter Sir PHILIP MODELOVE.

Per. You recommend! Nay, whenever she marries, I'll recommend the husband——

Sir Phil. What must it be, a whale or a rhinoceros, Mr. Periwinkle? ha, ha, ha! Mr. Tradelove, I have a bill upon you, [*Gives him a paper*] and have been seeking for you all over the town.

Trade. I'll accept it, Sir Philip, and pay it when due.——

Per. He shall be none of the fops at your end of the town, with full perukes and empty skulls—nor yet any of your trading gentry, who puzzle the heralds to find arms for their coaches.—No, he shall be a man famous for travels, solidity, and curiosity; ——one who has searched into the profundity of nature! When Heaven shall direct such a one, he shall have my consent, because it may turn to the benefit of mankind.

Mrs. Lov. The benefit of mankind! What, would you anatomize me?

Sir Phil. Ay, ay, madam, he would dissect you.

Trade. Or, pore over you through a microscope, to see how your blood circulates from the crown of your head to the sole of your foot——ha, ha! but I have a husband for you, a man that knows how to improve your fortune; one that trades to the four corners of the globe.

Mrs. Lov. And would send me for a venture perhaps.

Trade. One that will dress you in all the pride of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America—a Dutch merchant, my girl.

Sir Phil. A Dutchman! ha, ha; there's a husband for a fine lady.—Ya frow, will you meet myn slapen—ha, ha! he'll learn you to talk the language of the hogs, madam, ha, ha!

Trade. He'll learn you that one merchant is of more service to a nation than fifty coxcombs.—The Dutch know the trading interest to be of more benefit to the state, than the landed.

Sir Phil. But what is either interest to a lady?

Trade. 'Tis the merchant makes the belle—How would the ladies sparkle in the box without the merchant? The Indian diamond! The French brocade! The Italian fan! The Flanders lace! The fine Dutch holland! How would they vent their scandal over their tea-tables? And where would your beaux have Champagne to toast their mistresses, were it not for the merchant?

Ob. Pr. Verily, neighbour Tradlove, thou dost waste thy breath about nothing—All that thou hast said tendeth only to debauch youth, and fill their heads with the pride and luxury of this world—The merchant is a very great friend to satan, and sendeth as many to his dominions as the pope.

Per. Right, I say knowledge makes the man.

Ob. Pr. Yea, but not thy kind of knowledge—it is the knowledge of truth.—Search thou for the light within, and not for baubles, friend.

Mrs. Lov. Ah, study your country's good, Mr. Periwinkle, and not her insects.—Rid you of your home-bred monsters, before you fetch any from abroad—I dare swear you have maggots enough in your own brain to stock all the virtuosos in Europe with butterflies.

Sir Phil. By my soul, Miss Nancy's a wit.

Ob. Pr. That is more than she can say by thee, friend—Look ye, it is in vain to talk, when I meet a man worthy of her, she shall have my leave to marry him.

Mrs. Lov. Provided he be of the faithful——Was there ever such a swarm of caterpillars to blast the hopes of a woman! [*Aside.*] Know this, that you contend in vain: I'll have no husband of your choosing, nor shall you lord it over me long——I'll try the power of an English senate——Orphans have been redress'd, and wills set aside——And none did ever deserve their pity more—Oh, Fainwell! where are thy promises to free me from these vermin? Alas! the task was more difficult than he imagin'd!

A harder task than what the poets tell

Of yore, the fair Andromeda befel;

She but one monster fear'd, I've four to fear,

And see no Perseus, no deliv'rer near.

[Exit.

Enter Servant, and whispers to PRIM.

Serv. One Simon Pure enquireth for thee.

Per. The woman is mad.

[Exit.

Sir Phil. So you are all in my opinion.

[Exit.

Ob. Pr. Friend Tradelove, business requireth my presence.

Trade. Oh, I shan't trouble you—pox take him for an unmannerly dog—However, I have kept my word with my Dutchman, and will introduce him too for all you. [Exit.]

Enter Colonel in a Quaker's habit.

Ob. Pr. Friend Pure, thou art welcome; how is it with friend Holdfast, and all friends in Bristol? Timothy Littleworth, John Slenderbrain, and Christopher Keepfaith?

Col. A goodly company! [Aside.] They are all in health, I thank thee for them.

Ob. Pr. Friend Holdfast writes me word, that thou camest lately from Pennsylvania, how do all friends there?

Col. What the devil shall I say? I know just as much of Pennsylvania as I do of Bristol. [Aside.]

Ob. Pr. Do they thrive?

Col. Yea, friend, the blessing of their good works fall upon them.

Enter Mrs. PRIM and Mrs. LOVELY.

Ob. Pr. Sarah, know our friend Pure.

Mrs. Pr. Thou art welcome. [He salutes her.]

Col. Here comes the sum of all my wishes—How charming she appears even in that disguise! [Aside.]

Ob. Pr. Why dost thou consider the maiden so attentively, friend?

Col. I will tell thee: about four days ago I saw a vision—This very maiden, but in vain attire, standing on a precipice; and heard a voice, which called me by my name—and bid me put forth my hand and save her from the pit—I did so, and methought the damsel grew unto my side.

Mrs. Pr. What can that portend?

Ob. Pr. The damsel's conversion—I am persuaded.

Mrs. Lov. That's false, I'm sure—— [Aside.

Ob. Pr. Wilt thou use the means, friend Pure?

Col. Means! What means? Is she not thy daughter, already one of the faithful?

Mrs. Pr. No, alas! she's one of the ungodly.

Ob. Pr. Pray thee, mind what this good man will say unto thee; he will teach thee the way that thou shouldest walk, Anne.

Mrs. Lov. I know my way without his instruction: I hop'd to have been quiet when once I had put on your odious formality here.

Col. Then thou wearest it out of compulsion, not choice, friend?

Mrs. Lov. Thou art in the right of it, friend.—

Mrs. Pr. Art thou not ashamed to mimic the good man? Ah! thou art a stubborn girl.

Col. Mind her not; she hurteth not me—If thou wilt leave her alone with me, I will discuss some few points with her, that may perchance soften her stubbornness, and melt her into compliance.

Ob. Pr. Content: I pray thee *put it home to her.*—Come, Sarah, let us leave the good man with her.

Mrs. Lov. [*Catching hold of Prim, he breaks loose, and Exit.*] What do you mean—to leave me with this old enthusiastical canter? Don't think, because I comply'd with your formality, to impose your ridiculous doctrine upon me.

Col. I pray thee, young woman, moderate thy passion.

Mrs. Lov. I pray thee walk after thy leader, you will but lose your labour upon me.—These wretches will certainly make me mad!

Col. I am of another opinion; the spirit telleth me I shall convert thee, Anne.

Mrs. Lov. 'Tis a lying spirit, don't believe it.

Col. Say'st thou so? Why then thou shalt convert me, my angel. [*Catching her in his Arms.*

Mrs. Lov. [*Shrieks.*] Ah! monster, hold off, or I'll tear thy eyes out.

Col. Hush! for Heaven's sake—dost thou not know me? I am Fainwell.

Mrs. Lov. Fainwell! [*Enter old Prim.*] Oh, I'm undone! Prim here—I wish with all my soul I had been dumb.

Ob. Pr. What is the matter? Why did'st thou shriek out, Anne?

Mrs. Lov. Shriek out! I'll shriek and shriek again, cry murder, thieves, or any thing, to drown the noise of that eternal babbler, if you leave me with him any longer.

Ob. Pr. Was that all? Fie, fie, Anne.

H ij

Col. No matter, I'll bring down her stomach, I'll warrant thee——Leave us, I pray thee.

Ob. Pr. Fare thee well. [Exit.

Col. My charming, lovely woman! [Embraces her.

Mrs. Lov. What mean'st thou by this disguise, Fainwell?

Col. To set thee free, if thou wilt perform thy promise.

Mrs. Lov. Make me mistress of my fortune, and make thy own conditions.

Col. This night shall answer all my wishes.——See here, I have the consent of *three* of thy guardians already, and doubt not but Prim will make the *fourth*. [Prim listening.

Ob. Pr. I would gladly hear what arguments the good man useth to bend her. [Aside.

Mrs. Lov. Thy words give me new life, methinks.

Ob. Pr. What do I hear?

Mrs. Lov. Thou best of men, Heaven meant to bless me sure, when I first saw thee.

Ob. Pr. He hath mollified her.——Oh, wonderful conversion!

Col. Ha! Prim listening.—No more, my love, we are observed; seem to be edified, and give 'em hopes that thou wilt turn Quaker, and leave the rest to me. [Aloud.] I am glad to find that thou art touch'd with what I said unto thee, Anne; another time I will explain the other article unto thee; in the mean while, be thou dutiful to our friend Prim.

Mrs. Lov. I shall obey thee in every thing.

Enter OBADIAH PRIM.

Ob. Pr. Oh, what a prodigious change is here!—Thou hast wrought a miracle, friend! Anne, how dost thou like the doctrine he hath preached?

Mrs. Lov. So well, that I could talk to him for ever, methinks—I am ashamed of my former folly, and ask your pardon, Mr. Prim.

Col. Enough, enough, that thou art sorry; he is no pope, Anne.

Ob. Pr. Verily, thou dost rejoice me exceedingly, friend; will it please thee to walk into the next room, and refresh thyself—Come, take the maiden by the hand.

Col. We will follow thee.

Enter Servant.

Serv. There is another Simon Pure enquireth for thee, master.

Col. The devil there is. *[Aside.*

Ob. Prim. Another Simon Pure! I do not know him, is he any relation of thine?

Col. No, friend, I know him not—Pox take him, I wish he were in Pennsylvania again, with all my soul. *[Aside.*

Mrs. Lov. What shall I do? *[Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Bring him up.

Col. Humph! then one of us must go down, that's certain—Now impudence assist me.

H ij

Enter SIMON PURE.

Ob. Pr. What is thy will with me, friend?

S. Pu. Didst thou not receive a letter from Am-inadab Holdfast, of Bristol, concerning one Simon Pure?

Ob. Pr. Yea, and Simon Pure is already here, friend.

Col. And Simon Pure will stay here, friend, if it be possible. [*Aside.*

S. Pu. That's an untruth, for I am he.

Col. Take thou heed, friend, what thou dost say; I do affirm that I am Simon Pure.

S. Pu. Thy name may be Pure, friend, but not that Pure.

Col. Yea, that Pure, which my good friend, Am-inadab Holdfast, wrote to my friend Prim about; the same Simon Pure that came from Pennsylvania, and sojourned in Bristol eleven days; thou wouldst not take my name from me, wouldst thou?—till I have done with it. [*Aside.*

S. Pure. Thy name! I'm astonish'd!

Col. At what? at thy own assurance?

[*Going up to him, S. Pure starts back.*

S. Pu. Avaunt, Satan, approach me not; I defy thee and all thy works.

Mrs. Lov. Oh, he'll outcant him—Undone, undone for ever. [*Aisde.*

Col. Hark thee, friend, thy sham will not take—Don't exert thy voice, thou art too well acquainted

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Col. And Simon Pure will stay here, friend, if it be possible. *[Aside.]*

S. Pu. There's an entrance, for I am he.

Col. Take thee heed, friend, what thou dost say; I do affirm that I am Simon Pure.

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Col. Yea, that Pure, which my good friend, Amnadaab Holdfast, wrote to my friend from about; the said Simon Pure that came from Pennsylvania, and sojourned in Bristol eleven days; thou wouldst not take my name from me, wouldst thou? *[Aside.]* I will do as I please with it.

S. Pu. Thy name! I'm astonished!

Col. At what? at thy own assurance?

[Going up to him, S. Pure starts back.]

S. Pu. Away, Satan, approach me not; I defy thee and all thy works.

Mrs. Lee. Oh, he'll outcant him--Undone, undone for ever. *[Aside.]*

Col. Hark thee, friend, thy shame will not take--
Don't exert thy voice, thou art too well acquainted



BOLD STROKE for a WIFE.
*S. Pure. Avaunt. Satan. approach me not.
 I defy thee and all thy works.*

with Satan to start at him, thou wicked reprobate—
What can thy design be here?

Enter a Servant, and gives PRIM a Letter.

Ob. Pr. One of these must be a counterfeit, but which I cannot say.

Col. What can that letter be? [*Aside.*

S. Pu. Thou must be the devil, friend, that's certain, for no human power can stock so great a falsehood.

Ob. Pr. This letter sayeth that thou art better acquainted with that prince of darkness than any here.—Read that, I pray thee, Simon. [*Gives it the Col.*

Col. 'Tis Freeman's hand—[*Reads.*] *There is a design formed to rob your house this night, and cut your throat; and for that purpose there is a man disguised like a Quaker, who is to pass for one Simon Pure; the gang, whereof I am one, though now resolved to rob no more, has been at Bristol; one of them came in the coach with the Quaker, whose name he hath taken; and, from what he hath gathered from him, formed that design, and did not doubt but he should impose so far upon you, as to make you turn out the real Simon Pure, and keep him with you. Make the right use of this. Adieu.*—Excellent well! [*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Dost thou hear this? [*To S. Pure.*

S. Pu. Yea, but it moveth me not; that, doubtless, is the impostor. [*Pointing at the Col.*

Col. Ah! thou wicked one—now I consider thy

face, I remember thou didst come up in the leathern conveniency with me—thou hadst a black bob wig on, and a brown camblet coat with brass buttons.——

Canst thou deny it, ha ?

S. Pu. Yea, I can, and with a safe conscience too, friend.

Ob. Pr. Verily, friend, thou art the most impudent villain I ever saw.

Mrs. Lov. Nay, then I'll have a fling at him.—
[*Aside.*] I remember the face of this fellow at Bath—
Ay, this is he that pick'd my Lady Raffle's pocket in the Grove——Don't you remember that the mob pump'd you, friend?——This is the most notorious rogue——

S. Pu. What dost provoke thee to seek my life?—
Thou wilt not hang me, wilt thou, wrongfully?

Ob. Pr. She will do thee no hurt, nor thou shalt do me none; therefore get thee about thy business, friend, and leave thy wicked course of life, or thou may'st not come off so favourably every where.

Col. Go, friend, I would advise thee, and tempt thy fate no more.

S. Pu. Yea, I will go, but it shall be to thy confusion; for I shall clear myself: I will return with some proofs that shall convince thee, Obadiah, that thou art highly imposed upon. [Exit.

Col. Then there will be no staying for me, that's certain—What the devil shall I do? [Aside.

Ob. Pr. What monstrous works of iniquity are there in this world, Simon!

Col. Yea, the age is full of vice——'Sdeath, I am so confounded, I know not what to say. [*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Thou art disorder'd, friend——art thou not well?

Col. My spirit is greatly troubled, and something telleth me, that tho' I have wrought a good work in converting this maiden, this tender maiden, yet my labour will be in vain: for the evil spirit fighteth against her; and I see, yea I see with the eye of my inward man, that Satan will re-buffet her again, whenever I withdraw myself from her; and she will, yea, this very damsel will, return again to that abomination from whence I have retriev'd her, as if it were, yea, as if it were out of the jaws of the fiend.

Ob. Pr. Good lack, thinkest thou so?

Mrs. Lov. I must second him. [*Aside.*] What meaneth this struggling within me? I feel the spirit resisteth the vanities of this world, but the flesh is rebellious, yea, the flesh—I greatly fear the flesh and the weakness thereof——hum——

Ob. Pr. The maid is inspir'd. [*Aside.*

Col. Behold, her light begins to shine forth.——Excellent woman!

Mrs. Lov. This good man hath spoken comfort unto me, yea comfort, I say; because the words which he hath breathed into my outward ears, are gone through and fix'd in mine heart, yea verily in mine heart, I say;—and I feel the spirit doth love him exceedingly——hum——

Col. She acts it to the life. [*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Prodigious! The damsel is filled with the spirit—Sarah.

Enter Mrs. PRIM.

Mrs. Pr. I am greatly rejoiced to see such a change in our beloved Anne. I came to tell thee that supper stayeth for thee.

Col. I am not disposed for thy food, my spirit longeth for more delicious meat!—fain would I redeem this maiden from the tribe of sinners, and break those cords asunder wherewith she is bound—hum—

Mrs. Lov. Something whispers in my ears, methinks—that I must be subject to the will of this good man, and from him only must hope for consolation.—hum.—It also telleth me, that I am a chosen vessel to raise up seed to the faithful, and that thou must consent that we two be one flesh according to the word—hum—

Ob. Pr. What a revelation is here! This is certainly part of thy vision, friend, this is the maiden's *growing into thy side*; ah! with what willingness should I give thee my consent, could I give thee her fortune too—but thou wilt never get the consent of the wicked ones.

Col. I wish I was sure of yours. [*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. My soul rejoiceth; yea, rejoiceth, I say, to find the spirit within thee; for lo, it moveth thee with *natural* agitation—yea, with *natural* agitation, towards this good man—yea, it *stirreth*, as one may

say—yea, verily I say it *stirreth* up thy inclination—yea, as one would *stir* a pudding.

Mrs. Lov. I see, I see! the spirit guiding of thy hand, good Obadiah Prim, and now behold thou art signing thy consent;—and now I see myself within thy arms, my friend and brother, yea, I am become *bone* of thy *bone*, and *flesh* of thy *flesh*. [*Embracing him*]*—hum—*

Col. Admirably perform'd. [*Aside.*]*—*And I will take thee in all spiritual love for an helpmate, yea, for the wife of my bosom—and now methinks—I feel a *longing*—yea, a *longing*, I say, for the consummation of thy love,——yea, I do *long* exceedingly.

Mrs. Lov. And verily, verily, my spirit feeleth the same *longing*.

Mrs. Pr. The spirit hath greatly moved them both, —friend Prim, thou must consent, there's no resisting of the spirit!

Ob. Pr. Yea, the light within sheweth me, that I shall fight a good fight—and wrestle thro' those reprobate fiends, thy other guardians;—yea, I perceive the spirit will hedge thee into the flock of the righteous.—Thou art a chosen lamb—yea, a chosen lamb, and I will not push thee back—No, I will not, I say;—no, thou shalt leap-a, and frisk-a, and skip-a, and *bound*, and *bound*, I say,—yea, *bound* within the *fold* of the righteous—yea, even within thy *fold*, my brother.—Fetch me the pen and ink, Sarah

—and my hand shall confess its obedience to the spirit.

Col. I wish it were over.

Enter Mrs. PRIM, with pen and ink.

Mrs. Lov. I tremble lest this quaking rogue should return and spoil all. [*Aside.*

Ob. Pr. Here, friend, do thou write what the spirit prompteth, and I will sign it. [*Col. sits down.*

Mrs. Pr. Verily, Anne, it greatly rejoiceth me, to see thee reformed from that original wickedness wherein I found thee.

Mrs. Lov. I do believe thou art, and I thank thee—

Col. [*Reads.*] *This is to certify all whom it may concern, that I do freely give all my right and title, in Anne Lovely, to Simon Pure, and my full consent that she shall become his wife, according to the form of marriage. Witness my hand.*

Ob. Pr. That's enough, give me the pen.

[*Signs it.*

Enter BETTY, running to Mrs. LOVELY.

Betty. Oh! madam, madam, here's the quaking man again, he has brought a coachman and two or three more.

Mrs. Lov. Ruin'd past redemption! [*Aside to Col.*

Col. No, no, one minute sooner had spoil'd all; but now—here's company coming, friend, give me the paper. [*Going up to Prim hastily.*

Ob. Pr. Here it is, Simon ; and I wish thee happy with the maiden.

Mrs. Lov. 'Tis done, and now, devil, do thy worst.

Enter SIMON PURE, and Coachman, &c.

S. Pu. Look thee, friend, I have brought these people to satisfy thee that I am not that impostor which thou didst take me for, this is the man that did drive the leathern conveniency, and brought me from Bristol—and this is——

Col. Look ye, friend, to save the court the trouble of examining witnesses—I plead guilty—ha, ha!

Ob. Pr. How's this? Is not thy name Pure, then?

Col. No really, sir, I only make bold with this gentleman's name——but I here give it up safe and sound ; it has done the business which I had occasion for, and now I intend to wear my own, which shall be at his service upon the same occasion at any time.—Ha, ha, ha!

S. Pu. Oh! the wickedness of the age!

Coachman. Then you have no further need of us.

[*Exit.*

Col. No, honest man, you may go about your business.

Ob. Pr. I am struck dumb with thy impudence. Anne, thou hast deceiv'd me—and perchance undone thyself.

Mrs. Pr. Thou art a dissembling baggage, and shame will overtake thee.

[*Exit.*

S. Pu. I am grieved to see thy wife so much troubled; I will follow and console her. [Exit.]

Enter Servant.

Serv. Thy brother guardians enquire for thee; here is another man with them.

Mrs. Lov. Who can that other man be?

[To the Colonel.]

Col. 'Tis one Freeman, a friend of mine, whom I ordered to bring the rest of the guardians here.

Enter Sir PHILIP, TRADELOVE, PERIWINKLE, and FREEMAN.

Free. [To the Col.] Is all safe? did my letter do you service?

Col. All, all's safe! ample service. [Aside.]

Sir Phil. Miss Nancy, how do'st do, child?

Mrs. Lov. Don't call me miss, friend Philip, my name is Anne, thou knowest.——

Sir Phil. What, is the girl metamorphos'd?

Mrs. Lov. I wish thou wert so metamorphos'd.— Ah! Philip, throw off that gaudy attire, and wear the clothes becoming thy age.

Ob. Pr. I am ashamed to see these men. [Aside.]

Sir Phil. My age! the woman is possess'd.

Col. No, thou art possess'd rather, friend.

Trade. Hark ye, Mrs. Lovely, one word with you.

[Takes hold of her hand.]

Col. This maiden is my wife, thanks to friend Prim, and thou hast no business with her.

[*Takes her from him.*]

Trade. His wife! hark ye, Mr. Freeman.

Per. Why, you have made a very fine piece of work of it, Mr. Prim.

Sir Phil. Married to a Quaker! thou art a fine fellow to be left guardian to an orphan truly——there's a husband for a young lady!

Col. When I have put on my beau clothes, Sir Philip, you'll like me better——

Sir Phil. Thou wilt make a very scurvy beau——friend——

Col. I believe I can prove it under your hand that you thought me a very fine gentleman in the Park t'other day, about thirty-six minutes after eleven; will you take a pinch, Sir Philip——One of the finest snuff-boxes you ever saw. [*Offers him Snuff.*]

Sir Phil. Ha, ha, ha! I am overjoy'd, faith, I am, if thou be'st the gentleman——I own I did give my consent to the gentleman I brought here to-day;——but whether this is he, I can't be positive.

Ob. Pr. Can'st thou not?——Now, I think thou art a fine fellow to be left guardian to an orphan.—Thou shallow brain'd shuttlecock, he may be a pick-pocket for ought thou dost know.

Per. You would have been two rare fellows to have been trusted with the sole management of her fortune, would ye not, think ye? But Mr. Trade-love and myself shall take care of her portion.——

Trade. Ay, ay, so we will—Didn't you tell me the Dutch merchant desired me to meet him here, Mr. Freeman.

Free. I did so, and I am sure he will be here, if you'll have a little patience.

Col. What, is Mr. Tradelove impatient? Nay, then, ik ben gereet voor you, heb be, Jan Van Timtam-tirelireletta Heer Van Fainwell, vergeeten!

Trade. Oh! pox of the name! what have you trick'd me too, Mr. Freeman?

Col. Trick'd, Mr. Tradelove! did not I give you two thousand pounds for your consent fairly? And now do you tell a gentleman he has trick'd you?

Per. So, so, you are a pretty guardian, faith, to sell your charge; what, did you look upon her as part of your stock?

Ob. Pr. Ha, ha, ha! I am glad thy knavery is found out, however—I confess the maiden over-reached me, and I had no sinister end at all.

Per. Ay, ay, one thing or other over-reached you all—but I'll take care he shall never finger a penny of her money, I warrant you;—over reach'd quoth'a! Why, I might have been over-reach'd too, if I had had no more wit: I don't know but this very fellow may be him that was directed to me from Grand Cairo t'other day. Ha, ha, ha!

Col. The very same.

Per. Are you so, sir? but your trick would not pass upon me.—

Col. No, as you say, at that time it did not, that was

not my lucky hour;—but hark ye, sir, I must let you into one secret—you may keep honest John Tradescant's coat on, for your uncle Sir Toby Periwinkle is not dead—so the charge of mourning will be saved, ha, ha, ha!—Don't you remember Mr. Pillage, your uncle's steward? Ha, ha, ha!

Per. Not dead! I begin to fear I am trick'd too.

Col. Don't you remember the signing of a lease, Mr. Periwinkle?

Per. Well, and what signifies that lease, if my uncle is not dead?—Ha! I am sure it was a lease I signed.—

Col. Ay, but it was a lease for life, sir, and of this beautiful tenement, I thank you.

[*Taking hold of Mrs. Lovely.*

Omnes. Ha, ha, ha! Neighbours fare.

Free. So then I find you are all trick'd, ha, ha!

Per. I am certain I read as plain a lease as ever I read in my life.

Col. You read a lease, I grant you, but you sign'd this contract. [Shewing a Paper.

Per. How durst you put this trick upon me, Mr. Freeman? Didn't you tell me my uncle was dying?

Free. And would tell you twice as much to serve my friend, ha, ha!

Sir Phil. What, the learned and famous Mr. Periwinkle chous'd too!—Ha, ha, ha!—I shall die with laughing, ha, ha, ha!

Ob. Pr. It had been well if her father had left

her to wiser heads than *thine* and *mine*, friends, ha, ha, ha!

Trade. Well, since you have outwitted us all, pray you what and who are you, sir?

Sir Phil. Sir, the gentleman is a fine gentleman.——I am glad you have got a person, madam, who understands dress and good breeding.——I was resolved she should have a husband of my choosing.

Ob. Pr. I am sorry the maiden has fallen into such hands.

Trade. A beau! nay then she is finely help'd up.

Mrs. Lov. Why, beaux are great encouragers of trade, sir, ha, ha, ha!

Col. Look ye, gentlemen—I am the person who can give the best account of myself, and I must beg Sir Philip's pardon, when I tell him, that I have as much aversion to what he calls dress and breeding, as I have to the enemies of my religion. I have had the honour to serve his majesty, and headed a regiment of the bravest fellows that ever push'd bayonet in the throat of a Frenchman; and notwithstanding the fortune this lady brings me, whenever my country wants my aid, this sword and arm are at her service.

Therefore, my dear, if thou'lt but deign to smile,

I meet a recompence for all my toil;

Love and religion ne'er admit restraint,

And force makes many sinners, not one saint;

*Still free as air the active mind does rove,
And searches proper objects for its love;
But that once fix'd, 'tis past the pow'r of art
To chace the dear idea from the heart:
'Tis liberty of choice that sweetens life,
Makes the glad husband, and the happy wife.*

[Exeunt omnes.]

EPILOGUE.

WRITTEN BY MR. SEWELL.

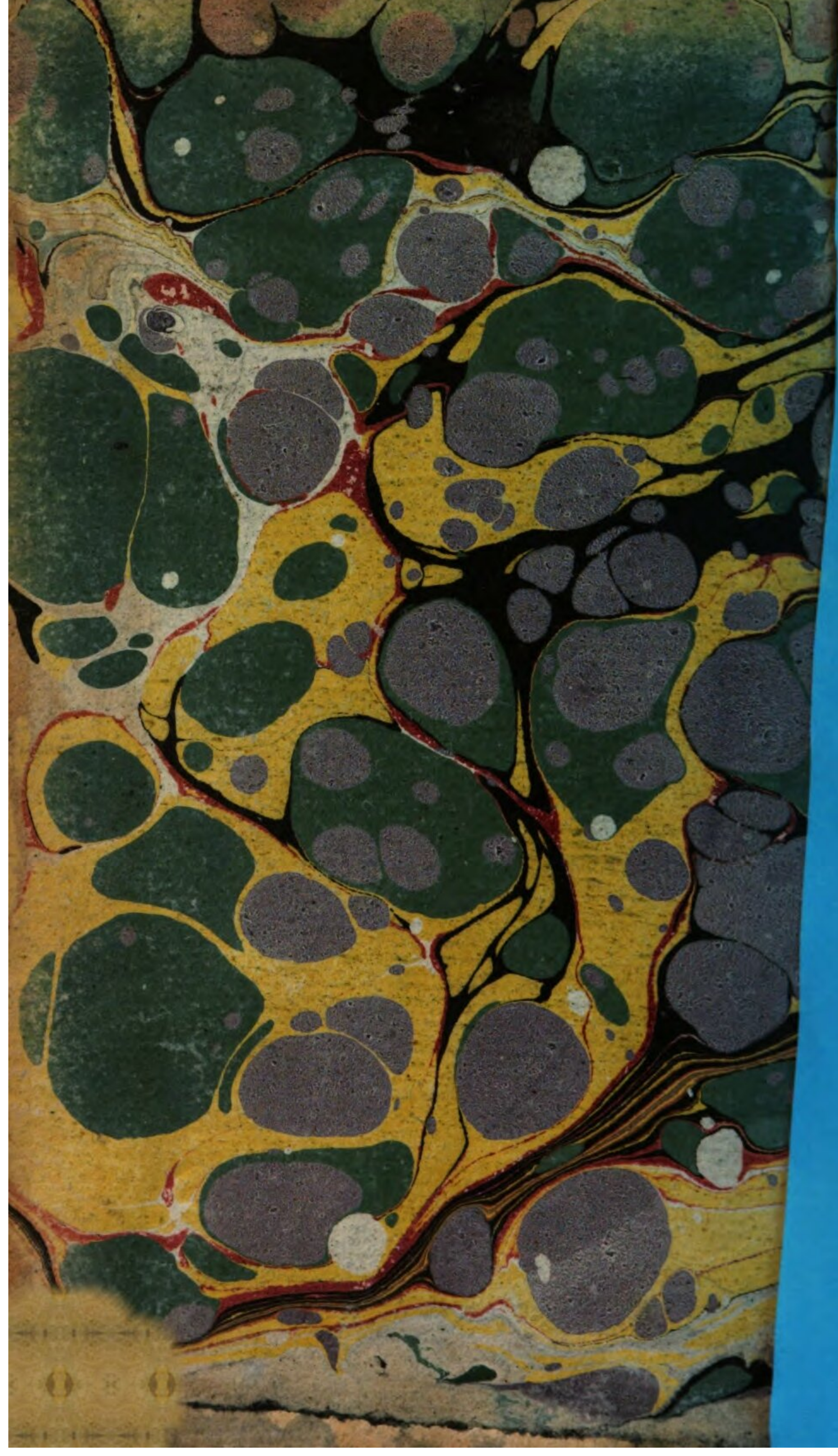
WHAT new strange ways our modern beaux devise!
What trials of love-skill to gain the prize!
The heathen gods, who never matter'd rapes,
Scarce wore such strange variety of shapes:
The devil take their odious barren skulls,
To court in form of snakes and filthy bulls:
Old Jove once nick'd it too, as I am told,
In a whole lap-full of true standard gold;
How must his godship then fair Danae warm!
In trucking ware for ware there is no harm,
Well, after all that, money has a charm.
But now, indeed, that stale invention's past;
Besides you know that guineas fall so fast,
Poor nymph must come to pocket-piece at last.
Old Harry's face, or good Queen Bess's ruff,
Not that I'd take 'em—may do well enough;
No——my ambitious spirit's far above
Those little tricks of mercenary love.
That man be mine, who, like the Colonel here,
Can top his character in ev'ry sphere;
Who can a thousand ways employ his wit,
Out-promise statesmen, and out-cheat a cit:

*Beyond the colours of a trav'ler paint,
And cant, and ogle too—beyond a saint.
The last disguise most pleas'd me, I confess,
There's something tempting in the preaching dress ;
And pleas'd me more than once a dame of note,
Who lov'd her husband in his footman's coat.
To see one eye in wanton motions play'd,
The other to the heav'nly regions stray'd,
As if, for it's fellow's frailties it pray'd :
But yet I hope, for all that I have said,
To find my spouse a man of war in bed.*

THE END.

Beyond the colours of a tree's leaf print,
 And east, and west, and south, and north,
 The best of things, that's in the world,
 They're now, and they're then,
 And they're there, and they're here,
 And they're everywhere,
 To see one eye in another's eye,
 The other to the other's eye,
 As if they were a fellow's eye,
 For me I hope, for all that I have said,
 To find my eye in yours in bed.

THE END.
 I have now, and I have then,
 And I have there, and I have here,
 And I have everywhere,
 To see one eye in another's eye,
 The other to the other's eye,
 As if they were a fellow's eye,
 For me I hope, for all that I have said,
 To find my eye in yours in bed.



Centlivre, Susannah,

A bold stroke for a wife a comedy

London 1791

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